

RECENT TENNESSEE  
POLITICAL HISTORY  
INTERVIEWS WITH  
MR. AND MRS. JOE HATCHER

BY CHARLES W. CRAWFORD  
TRANSCRIBER - CAROL LANEY  
ORAL HISTORY RESEARCH OFFICE  
MEMPHIS STATE UNIVERSITY





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OCTOBER 1, 1978  
DECEMBER 1, 1978

BY CHARLES W. CRAWFORD  
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MEMPHIS STATE UNIVERSITY  
*Oral History Research Office*  
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE 38152

September 5, 1980

TO: Eleanor Mc Kay

FROM: Charles Crawford

We are submitting herewith transcribed interviews in the Recent Tennessee Political History Project with Mr. and Mrs. Joe Hatcher of Nashville, Tennessee.

Mr. Hatcher died before the interview series could be completed and before I had secured a release form from him. I will request a form from Mrs. Joe Hatcher when I see her. In the meantime, however, I am sending these interviews to be placed in the Mississippi Valley Collection where they are to remain closed for use for a period of ten years without written approval from Mrs. Joe Hatcher or from me.



THE ORAL HISTORY RESEARCH OFFICE OF MEMPHIS STATE UNIVERSITY.

PROJECT: "AN ORAL HISTORY OF TENNESSEE POLITICS". NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE.

OCTOBER 1, 1978. THE INTERVIEW IS WITH MR. AND MRS. JOE HATCHER. THE INTERVIEW IS BY DR. CHARLES W. CRAWFORD, DIRECTOR OF THE MEMPHIS STATE UNIVERSITY ORAL HISTORY RESEARCH OFFICE, AND IS TRANSCRIBED BY MS. CAROL LANEY. (Interview #1)

DR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Hatcher, I'd like to start by asking you for a little background information about yourself. Perhaps you could give me sort of a short biography that would identify the material that I'm getting today for the Oral History collection.

MR. HATCHER: Briefly, I came from Weakley County, West Tennessee, a little town, Greenfield.

DR. CRAWFORD: Were you born there, sir?

MR. HATCHER: No, I was born in Mississippi. My father was a railroad man doing relief work in a little plantation town of Anding, Mississippi. My story is, at six months I learned that in Mississippi I started crawling north to the Tennessee border and made it and spent the rest of my life in Tennessee.

DR. CRAWFORD: What year were you born, sir?

MR. HATCHER: 1898, December 25.

DR. CRAWFORD: Christmas day is your birthday.

MR. HATCHER: I became familiar with Tennessee politics and Memphis politics in particular. My father took

The Commercial Appeal and I was raised on The Commercial Appeal in C. P. J.

Mooney's day of fighting Crump. So we knew of the Crump machine before I ever came to Vanderbilt in 1917 and were strictly anti-Crump in even Crump's early days in Memphis.





DR. CRAWFORD: You were in Weakley County at Greenfield and familiar with The Commercial Appeal so as you were growing up you were familiar with the Crump machine.

MR. HATCHER: Yes, through The Commercial Appeal and all the cartoons of Roxy Rice floating down the river in the little boat with various ones. I remember the cartoons and editorials against Crump machine.

DR. CRAWFORD: Let's see, Mr. Alley had not yet started his cartooning, had he?

MR. HATCHER: No. I don't know who was doing the cartooning. I think Alley probably did some of the Roxy Rice cartoons later that I remember.

DR. CRAWFORD: I believe he came in the teens, for I wrote a book on his son who was editorial cartoonist from '40 to '70.

MR. HATCHER: Yeah, I knew him well later.

DR. CRAWFORD: Did you go to school in Weakley County?

MR. HATCHER: Yes, I went to Greenfield Training School which was a private prep school, with very high recognition. I got in Vanderbilt without exams and six hours advance credit just coming from this school. It was taught by old Fitzgerald and Clark, some famous Tennessee prep school teachers it had in its early days. And I read in the paper the other day an obituary of a woman who was graduated from Greenfield Training School, an exclusive girls school, which rather shocked me, because it wasn't a girls school by any means.

DR. CRAWFORD: You graduated in 1917?

MR. HATCHER: From Greenfield and then I came to Vanderbilt



in 17 and 18 and graduated in '21 at Vanderbilt. And I edited both the Hustler and the Commodore, the annual at Vanderbilt, and that way got into journalism and did some night work for the Nashville Tennessean.

DR. CRAWFORD: What was your major sir?

MR. HATCHER: English, as I recall it.

DR. CRAWFORD: They did not have journalism at the time?

MR. HATCHER: No, no journalism courses.

DR. CRAWFORD: And you have edited the newspaper and the yearbook.

MR. HATCHER: Yes. I was the first one ever to do that, edit the both of them. And only one other person has ever done it.

DR. CRAWFORD: Did you do any work while you were in school in summers, or other times?

MR. HATCHER: Some, yes. I worked during the war on a civilian crew in Nashville one summer. I played baseball a couple of summers, semi-pro.

DR. CRAWFORD: What league?

MR. HATCHER: Georgia Million Dollar League, they called it then. It was strictly all college players and a few tramp ball players from big leagues and everywhere.

DR. CRAWFORD: Did you play ball at Vanderbilt?

MR. HATCHER: Yeah.

DR. CRAWFORD: Did you ever think of becoming a professional baseball player?

MR. HATCHER: I wasn't good enough. I was too small and a catcher at that.





DR. CRAWFORD: Did you have any experience with newspapers during your school work?

MR. HATCHER: Some night work at the Nashville Tennessean as a Vanderbilt correspondent and also I covered some night legislative sessions before graduation for the Tennessean.

DR. CRAWFORD: Did you do any work for a Georgia newspaper while you were in school or was that after?

MR. HATCHER: I worked one summer with the Atlanta Constitution sports department while I was in school and when I graduated I went back to the Atlanta Constitution.

DR. CRAWFORD: What writing were you doing then?

MR. HATCHER: I wrote golf and baseball mostly. On the Constitution I toured, covered the tour of Ted Ray and Harry Avarin in the south, in 1920 I think it was, or maybe '21. I think Ted Ray won the national, I mean the United States open that year and I did work on The Tennessean. I came back from Atlanta as Sports Editor of the evening Tennessean which was an afternoon edition of the Tennessean.

DR. CRAWFORD: When was that sir?

MR. HATCHER: That was October 1, 1921.

DR. CRAWFORD: Did you enjoy your sports writing, sports editing?

MR. HATCHER: Very much. It's stayed with me all my life.

I'm still a great sport--my wife says she will put football, baseball, tennis, all kinds of sports equipment in my coffin so that I won't be deprived after life.

DR. CRAWFORD: Now let's see, you were sports editor for the evening edition of the Tennessean.



MR. HATCHER: Yes. And now Blinky Horn took a year's sabbatical leave and I shifted over to sports editor of the morning paper and when he returned I shifted to politics.

DR. CRAWFORD: Was that about '21 or '22?

MR. HATCHER: That was for the '22 campaign, I think.

DR. CRAWFORD: That would have been Austin Peay's campaign, wouldn't it sir?

MR. HATCHER: I covered McKellar sometime against Fonce Harris which was in '22, I think it was.

DR. CRAWFORD: Why did you get into political writing?

MR. HATCHER: Because the publisher's main interest seemed to be in politics and I thought probably the field of journalism was more promising in politics than sports, because Horn was certainly settled for life as sports editor for the Tennessean. I was not the roaming newspaper type. I like to settle down and stay, which I have all my life.

DR. CRAWFORD: Yes sir, you certainly have for you are still writing for the Tennessean now, fifty-some years later, nearly sixty years later, I believe. You're writing a weekly Sunday column now, aren't you?

MR. HATCHER: Yes. And I also write a weekly Sunday column for the Atlanta Journal Constitution which I have been doing for twenty odd years. I think it is twenty years, it doesn't seem that long but one of the journal boys said he thought it was in the '20's, twenty-odd years.

DR. CRAWFORD: What sort of subjects do you cover in your column?

MR. HATCHER: In the journal I'm absolutely free to anything





that I think would be interesting to Georgia readers. So mostly it has to be politics but occasionally you find some other subject that you think would be interesting and digress from it. But maybe my mind is more geared to politics so I find that the most available subject. I think anybody that was writing for an out of town paper would have to depend largely on politics to turn out fifty-two columns a year.

DR. CRAWFORD: You write about national politics, I expect, when you write for the Atlanta Journal Constitution, don't you?

MR. HATCHER: If they tie into Tennessee in any way. I stick to Tennessee politics. For instance, Howard Baker's potential candidate for presidency is worth a column occasionally.

DR. CRAWFORD: Well, you have been a close observer of Tennessee politics for well over fifty years.

MR. HATCHER: Yes, I would say since '22 at least.

DR. CRAWFORD: Were you interested in politics while you were growing up before you went to Vanderbilt?

MR. HATCHER: In a casual way, I remember as a kid in 1908 when Bob Taylor came to my home town at Greenfield in his campaign against Ben W. Hooper on a special train and came in real late. The bobfire was burning and so forth and I was vitally interested. I was a kid of nine years old then.

DR. CRAWFORD: I know that was a long time ago, about 71 years, Mr. Hatcher, but there are not many people around now who have heard Bob Taylor speak. Do you remember his speech, what you thought of it?

MR. HATCHER: It was a brilliant speech but I remember



nothing about it. I remember being more or less spellbound. His train was real late so he cut it short. But he was a great speaker and I was later to know his brother, Uncle Alf (of course War of the Roses was beyond me back in 1886) but I was later to know Uncle Alf through his family. Little Bob Taylor, named for his uncle, was in school at Vanderbilt while his father was governor. I played baseball with him and I've been very closely associated and a very close friend of his ever since. He's now a federal judge in Knoxville and he never comes to Nashville without calling me, or I go to see him in Knoxville, so I've known the Taylor family. And the Memphis Bob Taylor is the grandson of old man Bob.

DR. CRAWFORD: Yes sir, I have served on the Tennessee Historical Commission with him and have learned to appreciate him there. Did Bob Taylor's speech in 1910 during that campaign seem to have a strong effect on the people who hurt him?

MR. HATCHER: Yes he was very popular although he got beat. My father was very strong for him and so was I. As I remember my home town in West Tennessee went for him but the big cities didn't. There was a big wet, dry fight going on. That was in 1908.

DR. CRAWFORD: Against Ben Hooper.

MR. HATCHER: Yeah. He came home from the United States Senate but he held the senate seat. But he went back and died not long afterwards.

DR. CRAWFORD: I suppose it's well that he held onto his senate seat since he lost the gubernatorial race.

MR. HATCHER: That's probably the reason that he lost the race.





DR. CRAWFORD: Was he called back to try to unite the Democratic party?

MR. HATCHER: Yeah, Malcolm R. Patterson from Memphis resigned the nomination because he felt that he was going to lose I think. He was such a controversial character.

DR. CRAWFORD: He was indeed and of course especially after the assassination of Edward Ward Carmack in Nashville.

MR. HATCHER: Although he was nominated by the Democratic regulars.

DR. CRAWFORD: Well, I think they made a logical effort to bring Bob Taylor back to try to win that time even if he did not. What about your beginning work for the Tennessean in 1922 when you covered the McKellar campaign. Did you get to Memphis any for that.

MR. HATCHER: I don't remember being in Memphis. I traveled under McKellar quite a bit and it gave me a permanent feeling, I reckon, on politics that even though you are fighting a man you can still be friendly. He took care of me just like I was strong for him. When we would get off the train in a small town when they would make no provision for me to ride in a parade or anything McKellar would always see that I was taken care of.

DR. CRAWFORD: The Tennessean was opposing him that year wasn't it?

MR. HATCHER: Yes, we were supporting Finas Garrett.

DR. CRAWFORD: What sort of campaigner did you find Senator McKellar to be? How would you describe him?



MR. HATCHER: As a very, I would say, low level campaigner. He was not a brilliant speaker. He was not particularly an entertaining speaker. He was a good mixer.

DR. CRAWFORD: He did well meeting people.

MR. HATCHER: A good handshaker. And he spoke down to earth and very normal. He wasn't a hell-raiser by any means or an orator.

DR. CRAWFORD: Did you do any coverage at all of the Austin Peay campaign that year?

MR. HATCHER: Yes, with his opposition, with Jim McAlister. Our senior political reporter traveled with Peay.

DR. CRAWFORD: Who was he at that time?

MR. HATCHER: T. H. Alexander.

DR. CRAWFORD: He's been gone a while, hasn't he?

MR. HATCHER: Yeah.

DR. CRAWFORD: Did you come into contact with Mr. Crump during the campaign of 1922?

MR. HATCHER: I don't remember any contact with Mr. Crump until later. I don't remember my first contact with Mr. Crump.

DR. CRAWFORD: But it was sometime in the '20's I suppose.

MR. HATCHER: He was certainly involved in my writing and so forth.

DR. CRAWFORD: Now the Tennessean was opposing Mr. Crump at this time, wasn't it?

MR. HATCHER: So far as I know they opposed him always except on one occasion.

DR. CRAWFORD: What was that, sir?



MR. HATCHER: That was the occasion that they beat his election commissioner and got control of the election commission. That would be '28 and I'm sure I went to Memphis and saw Mr. Crump during that time, and then probably I had seen him around the legislature. In my relations, he was another one that always went out of his way to be just like you were an old time buddy. I remember at the night club-- I was out there on Highway 100 one night--when Crump come in from Memphis with all the boys. I laid back and he saw me all the way across the dance floor and just shucked them all and rushed across there to shake my hand and put his arm around me, and I was giving him hell and he had written me one or two nasty letters. But in public he was showing that he could be friendly. My most noted meeting with Mr. Crump was way up in '37, I guess it was, or '38, on his break with Browning. I had a tip--off on it or knew about it and went to Memphis to see him and he granted me an interview and left the rest of the press sitting out waiting. He told me about how he cursed Browning out and why he had broken with him and all this kind of stuff. Then we went out and he said it was just a friendly visit. Nothing developed and so forth and of course I didn't divulge anything but I came back and wrote this story about Crump's break with Browning. He immediately denied it and called me all kinds of a liar in the world--and for three days he denied it--and then he admitted it.

DR. CRAWFORD: Did he admit it when you were with him.

MR. HATCHER: He told me all about it. There wasn't any question I just couldn't understand how in the hell he denied it.

DR. CRAWFORD: Well, for the record he denied it, I suppose.

MR. HATCHER: Yeah. He wanted to get in a few punches and declare he wasn't telling me anything and so



forth. Then the break came and he did succeed in beating Browning in '38.

DR. CRAWFORD: Yes after having supported him in '36. Do you remember what he told you about why he had broken with Browning. I've heard several stories about it.

MR. HATCHER: I'm not clear on it. It was basically that he couldn't control Browning. Browning wanted to do some things that he didn't want done. Browning was also for repeal of the poll tax which Crump didn't want, and then they became bitter when Browning did pass the unit bill that would cut Shelby's vote down to so many units and take away the power of vote.

DR. CRAWFORD: Why do you think he felt so strongly--Mr. Crump did--about the poll tax and about the unit bill.

MR. HATCHER: Poll tax is a way to control elections. Now I've been in Frank Rice's office and Frank has showed me the files. Frank was always a good friend of mine in spite of our political differences. He has shown me his files of thousands of poll tax receipts and registrations that he kept in his files and they just passed them out on election day to the voters as they hauled to the polls. They weren't necessarily people whose names were on them at all. They were the guys they were hauling from one poll to another. They would hand them out these poll tax receipts and registration slip and they would go vote--you see--mostly cottonpickers from Arkansas.

DR. CRAWFORD: I had read in some books that Mr. Crump was a wonderful liberal because he allowed the blacks to vote.

MR. HATCHER: Yeah, as long as they voted his way. No question, he voted a hell of a lot of blacks and a lot





of them that they proved in '31 hearings that were just names on tombstones.

DR. CRAWFORD: I remember a story about that that was passed around. You probably have heard it--about copying names from the cemetery.

MR. HATCHER: Yeah.

DR. CRAWFORD: What about the unit bill. Do you know who developed that idea? And why?

MR. HATCHER: Well, you see Georgia had it. And they had it up to more or less modern times. I don't know exactly when it was declared unconstitutional, but it was working in Georgia and cut Atlanta down to nothing.

DR. CRAWFORD: How did it work in Georgia?

MR. HATCHER: It worked a great advantage to Talmadge and all the other rural governors that they had through the early days.

DR. CRAWFORD: What was the mechanism of the bill? How did it help the small counties?

MR. HATCHER: Well the small counties would cast so many units per thousand votes, let's say. Shelby County would cast so many but be limited to, let's say, ten units.

DR. CRAWFORD: At a maximum.

MR. HATCHER: No matter how many they voted it would be limited to ten electoral votes or whatever you call unit votes.

DR. CRAWFORD: No county could cast more than ten, then?

MR. HATCHER: No.



DR. CRAWFORD: So that reduced the power of the more populous counties.

MR. HATCHER: Yeah.

DR. CRAWFORD: And Gordon Browning had that passed.

MR. HATCHER: Yeah.

DR. CRAWFORD: Do you think he had already broken with Mr. Crump when he did?

MR. HATCHER: Oh yeah. Bitterly broken.

DR. CRAWFORD: So that was in the latter part of his first term as governor. What do you remember about Mr. Crump's appearance in his office when you had to see him? What impression did you get of him?

MR. HATCHER: I wasn't present. I don't remember anything about it.

DR. CRAWFORD: I've seen his later pictures. He looked very impressive with white hair and bushy eyebrows. Did he look that way when you first saw him?

MR. HATCHER: Yeah. I think when I first saw him he wasn't quite so white haired. He was still sort of sandy headed but he had extremely bushy eyebrows and they were dark, probably touched up, I don't know.

DR. CRAWFORD: When you met him was his office in the Crump building down at Main and Adams downtown?

MR. HATCHER: Yeah. Right close to the court house. In fact, it was on the square, wasn't it?

DR. CRAWFORD: Very close.



MR. HATCHER: Very close, just to the right.

DR. CRAWFORD: Just a short distance from Adams to the square.

To go back a little, in the campaign that you covered in '22, Kenneth McKellar's campaign, and when Austin Peay was also running, the Alf Taylor administration was just coming to a close. Had you covered that in any way? Do you know anything about it?

MR. HATCHER: No, I was still in school

DR. CRAWFORD: From your contacts with the family, do you know what kind of administration Alf Taylor ran? I don't know a great deal about it.

MR. HATCHER: It was a fairly pleasant administration because Uncle Alf was a rather beloved character.

DR. CRAWFORD: Well, everything was fairly calm during the Alf Taylor administration, wasn't it?

MR. HATCHER: He didn't accomplish much. But the Democrats were fairly friendly. They ran the legislature and Uncle Alf didn't oppose them much.

DR. CRAWFORD: Was that when the governor had a horseshoe pitching area set up on the capitol grounds where they spent time in the afternoons?

MR. HATCHER: I think so. Uncle Alf had his old coon dog.

DR. CRAWFORD: Old Limber.

MR. HATCHER: Old Limber.

DR. CRAWFORD: Did you ever see Old Limber?

MR. HATCHER: I don't remember. I've been to the mansion once or twice just to see little Bob about something or with him. He was playing at Vanderbilt at the time.



DR. CRAWFORD: Let's see, was he the grandson?

MR. HATCHER: No, he was the son of Uncle Alf.

DR. CRAWFORD: Didn't Uncle Alf have a large family, a lot of sons?

MR. HATCHER: Yeah.

DR. CRAWFORD: Did they help him campaign in 1920?

MR. HATCHER: I think most of them did. I think they had some kind of a family quartet or some of them played some instruments. I don't remember little Bob being in it much. He was a Democrat.

DR. CRAWFORD: Well, that was strange, wasn't it, that he was a Democrat in a Republican family?

MR. HATCHER: He took after--because he was named for his uncle who was a Democrat--he became a Democrat.

DR. CRAWFORD: I believe the children did have a band or a vocal group and campaigned. Did you ever hear Uncle Alf speak?

MR. HATCHER: I don't remember.

DR. CRAWFORD: I think he told a lot of stories about Old Limber when he was speaking.

MR. HATCHER: I think I have heard him at some kind of a Bar-B-Que or occasion of that sort. I never heard him in a political campaign. He beat Roberts. I didn't know Roberts at that time. Later I knew him well and used to go out and have dinner at his house rather frequently.

DR. CRAWFORD: Uncle Alf was rather old by that time, wasn't he?

MR. HATCHER: Yeah, he was getting way up in years.

DR. CRAWFORD: I think he was one of Tennessee's older governors





while he served. Did you cover Capitol Hill during the Austin Peay administration?

MR. HATCHER: I covered the legislature and covered the Capitol in many ways as Alexander's aide, assistant mostly. I came in under Horton. Elick had retired largely to column writing and editorials and I took over the active covering of the Capitol.

DR. CRAWFORD: What do you remember best about the legislature during the Austin Peay administration?

MR. HATCHER: Well, it was probably one of the great administrations. He started the road system and basically he reorganized it, eliminated the numerous committees and commissions and various organizations that were responsible to nobody. He brought them all under the commission form of government or Cabinet form. He levied the first gasoline tax for a road system.

DR. CRAWFORD: What was the road system like before Austin Peay's administration?

MR. HATCHER: It was a three man road commission and all three of them had built paved roads to their home towns and that had been about the limit of what they did.

DR. CRAWFORD: And automobiles were becoming a lot more important then?

MR. HATCHER: Yeah. One of them lived in Columbia and one of them lived in Dresden, Tennessee and one of them-- I forgot the place up in East Tennessee--but they all had paved roads.

DR. CRAWFORD: And I suppose there were not many bridges in the state either then.



MR. HATCHER: Peay started the system of toll bridges.

DR. CRAWFORD: How was the legislature under Austin Peay?

Did he control it reasonably well?

MR. HATCHER: Very well. There was some opposition. Pete Haynes....

DR. CRAWFORD: From Winchester?

MR. HATCHER: From Winchester, was in opposition to him largely but very ineffective at stopping anything in particular.

DR. CRAWFORD: Why did Mr. Haynes oppose him?

MR. HATCHER: I assume a matter of realistic politics. It was a way for Haynes to become more important because he later shifted over to that side of the fence--just as strong on the other side.

DR. CRAWFORD: Just as strong on Mr. Peay's side?

MR. HATCHER: Not after Peay died. He was for Horton and then he got for Crump a while and then broke with Crump. He was a Crump man until '31 impeachment proceeding and he broke with Crump during that over Fitzhugh. Crump forced Fitzhugh to resign as Speaker of the Senate and Haynes was speaker of the house and they were running impeachment proceedings. When Haynes wanted to be re-elected again why Crump wasn't going to let him be re-elected. But Crump and Rice went to Hot Springs as usual and while they were in Hot Springs, Pete got enough signed up to win the speakership and when they got back he was speaker. So he was a strong Browning man.

DR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Crump wanted Fitzhugh in for the impeachment of Henry Horton?

MR. HATCHER: Yeah.

DR. CRAWFORD: Why did he want Henry Horton impeached?



MR. HATCHER: Well he never was for Horton. That's when they forced him to support Horton to get his election commission appointed.

DR. CRAWFORD: In Shelby County?

MR. HATCHER: In Shelby County.

DR. CRAWFORD: But relations between Mr. Horton and Mr. Crump were never very good then?

MR. HATCHER: No. It was a forced situation. Horton was a Lea--Caldwell man.

DR. CRAWFORD: Luke Lea and Rogers Caldwell?

MR. HATCHER: Yeah. He was their man and they elected him to the state election commission. He was going to appoint Crump to the election commission. Now what Crump needed with that election commission in Memphis that bad I don't know because primaries were controlling. I reckon he needed it to control the county election machinery and the election officials. But anyhow it was damn important to him. So he swallowed Horton.

DR. CRAWFORD: Who required him to support Horton? Was that Luke Lea and Rogers Caldwell?

MR. HATCHER: Yeah.

DR. CRAWFORD: Had Mr. Crump always been an enemy of Lea and Caldwell's as far as you know?

MR. HATCHER: Yeah. He was never friendly with them.

DR. CRAWFORD: Do you know why not? It seems to me that they could have gotten along because the Lea--Caldwell interests were here in Nashville more while Mr. Crump's were in Memphis.

MR. HATCHER: Well, you see it dated back to the old



Hooper fusion days. Lea was the leader of the fusion movement. He was a staunch prohibitionist, teetotaler. Crump was whipped and they had ousted Crump in 1916.

DR. CRAWFORD: Yes under the ouster law.

MR. HATCHER: Under the ouster law which Colonel Lea and Hooper, I guess had passed under Rye.

DR. CRAWFORD: Tom Rye, yes that would seem right.

MR. HATCHER: It was starting--the whole movement was starting back from 1908 on, and that was when Crump was gaining his machine power.

DR. CRAWFORD: Well, I think after Mr. Crump was ousted in 1916 he started consolidating power strongly again and wanted to make his position so strong that they could never oust him again from anything as they had in 1916.

MR. HATCHER: Yeah, I don't know when he ran again. He was to run again and be elected wasn't he?

DR. CRAWFORD: Yes sir, he did serve as mayor again.

MR. HATCHER: You see Crump resigned before his case was finally settled as ouster. But they went ahead and ousted him anyway. And they ousted Hillary House in Nashville who was a strong ally of the Crump Machine. And he was also bitter anti-Lea here at Nashville.

DR. CRAWFORD: Was Malcolm Patterson a friend of Mr. Crump's?

MR. HATCHER: Not particularly I don't think.

DR. CRAWFORD: Now Mr. Patterson had some difficulty in Nashville, you know, after he had finished his term as governor. Who was responsible for that?





MR. HATCHER: I don't know. You mean his raid?

DR. CRAWFORD: Yes sir.

MR. HATCHER: I don't know.

DR. CRAWFORD: I wondered if some of his political enemies had not. . .?

MR. HATCHER: Oh yeah, it was a set--up job.

DR. CRAWFORD: What happened to him then.

MR. HATCHER: Patterson, he was evidently a rounder.

He visited this whorehouse regularly, supposedly, and they just set it up with the police and went in down there and raided the place.

DR. CRAWFORD: And arrested him I suppose.

MR. HATCHER: And arrested him.

DR. CRAWFORD: Were reporters there when it happened?

MR. HATCHER: I don't know. It was before my day even in Vanderbilt.

DR. CRAWFORD: I know it got in the papers though.

MR. HATCHER: Yeah. Oh, it was given big play.

DR. CRAWFORD: And some of his enemies had set it up apparently.

MR. HATCHER: Yeah.

DR. CRAWFORD: Do you know if they were afraid he would try to make a comeback or something? Were they trying to discredit him for that reason?

MR. HATCHER: He was a nominee again. The regular Democrats had stuck with him and nominated him again. I don't know whether it was before, but I think it was probably before that they caught him in that raid. Anyhow, he resigned the nomination and they brought



Bob Taylor back. Now later Patterson attempted a comeback. He was born again.

DR. CRAWFORD: Sort of like Charles Colson?

MR. HATCHER: Yeah. I traveled with him in that campaign.

DR. CRAWFORD: What year would that have been sir?

MR. HATCHER: Let's see Lou Pope in '32, I guess, and Lou Pope was sponsoring it. And they had been so bitter enemies you see.

DR. CRAWFORD: Was sponsoring Patterson then?

MR. HATCHER: Yeah.

DR. CRAWFORD: That was a change, wasn't it?

MR. HATCHER: Colonel Lea and Patterson had debated over the United States senate when McKellar was elected.

McKellar followed around gum--shoeing behind them and beat both of them. And nobody ever thought of McKellar as winning.

DR. CRAWFORD: What year was that now?

MR. HATCHER: That was in 1916. And then Colonel Lea took Patterson's cause in '32. He was very pleasant.

I enjoyed traveling with him and knowing him and so forth but knew that he couldn't win. I kept trying to get Colonel Lea, wiring him that Pope could win and Patterson couldn't, but he couldn't change. And Pope did win, I think, but he got beat out of it. Shelby outcounted him. That was when the big probe that contested the election came off.

DR. CRAWFORD: What year?

MR. HATCHER: '32 or '33 the contest, I think.

DR. CRAWFORD: What happened in that probe of the Shelby County voting.



MR. HATCHER: I don't remember too much about it although I covered it at great length, but that is the one that they proved a lot of votes were same as tombstones and supposedly truckloads of Arkansas cotton pickers were brought across the river, pulled up to the polls, and poll tax and registration receipts was handed them as they walked into the polls. And it was about 80% McAlister.

DR. CRAWFORD: Do you know why Mr. Crump was supporting Hill McAlister?

MR. HATCHER: No, except that McAlister had been on their side of the fence all along and he was ambitious. I don't know the mechanics that got him in the race. He later fell out with McAlister.

DR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Crump fell out with quite a number of people.

MR. HATCHER: Called him "little boy blue".

DR. CRAWFORD: Do you know why they had that falling out?

MR. HATCHER: No, McAlister didn't do something he wanted. It was never an open break because McAlister went out of office before they came to an open break. He didn't run for a third term.

DR. CRAWFORD: And that's when Mr. Crump gave his support first to Gordon Browning in '36?

MR. HATCHER: Yeah.

DR. CRAWFORD: What sort of relationship had Mr. Crump had with Henry Horton.

MR. HATCHER: Very forceful of supporting him in his first race on that election commission issue. He supported him and L. E. Guinn of Covington was the opposition candidate.



And he was never a strong supporter of Horton. As I remember when the legislature met he was not friendly at all. The legislative delegation was strictly for Crump and not supporting Horton's program. It wasn't openly broke, but they broke pretty soon after that.

DR. CRAWFORD: You had a chance to get acquainted with the Shelby County Legislative Delegation pretty early in your coverage of the legislature. What do you think about the delegation? How did it work?

MR. HATCHER: Well they were mostly outstanding young men. They had some very fine boys but they had to go along. They had no voice of their own. And they didn't mind telling you that Frank Rice for many years passed orders to them and then Will Gerber.

DR. CRAWFORD: Who followed Will Gerber?  
Did Francis Andrews come in there?

MR. HATCHER: Francis Andrews to some extent. Francis was never the power that Gerber was.

DR. CRAWFORD: Did Mr. Crump relay his wishes to them through Frank Rice and then through Will Gerber?

MR. HATCHER: Yeah.

DR. CRAWFORD: Do you think they were in regular contact?

MR. HATCHER: I assume in daily, I don't know. And Mr. Crump would drop into Nashville occasionally during the legislative session.

DR. CRAWFORD: I understand also that he called generally each morning or at least daily--I think it was in the morning--to Frank Rice or Will Gerber with directions for what to do that day.





MR. HATCHER: Yeah.

DR. CRAWFORD: Did the Shelby County delegation always vote together in those times?

MR. HATCHER: As a unit, always. That is on anything that was really important. For something that they had no interest in they might divide up sometime. I don't remember them ever dividing. And I have had some good friends on the delegation.

DR. CRAWFORD: Who do you remember on the Shelby County delegation?

MR. HATCHER: Bland Maxwell in particular, Scott Fitzhugh. Little Charlie Mooney, John Brown, and what's his name that became federal judge and is retired now. I saw something in the paper about him not long ago.

DR. CRAWFORD: Was he in Memphis?

MR. HATCHER: Yeah. And Gerald Stratton, of course.

DR. CRAWFORD: You knew Gerald back in those days?

MR. HATCHER: Yeah. When Gerald was breaking with Crump he spent a lot of time out here. And Bland used to visit quietly out here on occasion. I always valued knowing Frank Rice. We got along fine.

DR. CRAWFORD: What sort of person was he?

MR. HATCHER: He was a rough, tough customer. I imagine most of it was put on. I think Frank had a pretty good background maybe, but he chewed tobacco and spat on the floor wherever he was, on the carpets or anywhere. Frank used to pass me in the hotel lobby in the capitol hall and never stop to say a word but talk out of the corner of his mouth and give me a good tip. Never tipped me wrong in his life. Some of the other



boys he would give tips that would put them out on a limb so far that it would make them look silly sometimes predicting something that didn't happen. But Frank never gave me a bum tip in his life.

DR. CRAWFORD: You were able to trust him then?

MR. HATCHER: Yeah. And Francis Andrews was a good friend of mine. Anytime I went to Memphis I always stopped by Francis' office. He didn't seem to fear Mr. Crump knowing how he did, nor Frank didn't either. Frank would take me over to see Mr. Crump at least to say hello. That would be about all. Mr. Crump wouldn't pass any particular time except that one meeting on Browning. But I always spent quite a bit of time with Frank or Francis Andrews, but never with Gerber. We didn't speak.

DR. CRAWFORD: Gerber was not that friendly?

MR. HATCHER: Oh, he was--no he was always bitter.

DR. CRAWFORD: Did you know if he acted that way with other reporters who were not supporters of the Crump Machine?

MR. HATCHER: Yeah. Anybody that wasn't right under his thumb and not too friendly with those that--he was just a dictator and loved the power.

DR. CRAWFORD: Do you feel those people always represented what Mr. Crump wanted or occasionally they represented what they wanted? I mean such people as Frank Rice, Will Gerber, Francis Andrews.

MR. HATCHER: Well they always represented what Mr. Crump agreed to or they persuaded Mr. Crump. They might have had strong influence on Mr. Crump on a lot of things. They were close to him



without question. He evidently left a lot to them.

DR. CRAWFORD: I think he did. You covered the Henry Horton impeachment situation, didn't you?

MR. HATCHER: Yeah.

DR. CRAWFORD: Do you think he knew what was going wrong in any way before the state money was lost.

MR. HATCHER: No. I don't think he proved anything in particular wrong except the depression and everybody was caught in that. The main thing is the money he had in the Bank of Tennessee, which was two million and something, as I remember it. Which would be chicken feed today. They might have it in a branch bank--that much money today. But the Bank of Tennessee was open to criticism and it wasn't a bank really. It was just a paper organization in Caldwell and Company. It wasn't open to the public for deposit or withdrawal or anything else, but it had the state funds in it that got caught in bankruptcy. And most of the other stuff they tried to prove--they never proved anything wrong. I remember on that his son sold a small quantity of hay to a State Farm or something. It happened that they needed the hay and one of them knew that his son on a farm had some hay for sale and he bought a few bales but paid whatever the market price was. There was no profit in it except what he would have paid anywhere else. That went out the window. Maybe questionable, but nothing serious and there was certainly never any question that Horton ever got a nickel for anything. He was one of the most sincere, virtuous, straight old men I ever knew.

DR. CRAWFORD: Then you didn't see any reason why he should have been impeached?

MR. HATCHER: No.



DR. CRAWFORD: How do you suppose the public felt about all that?

MR. HATCHER: Who, Clement?

DR. CRAWFORD: No, about Henry Horton and the bank failure.

MR. HATCHER: What who felt?

DR. CRAWFORD: About Henry Horton and the bank failure. Do you feel there was any public disapproval of Governor Horton because of the bank problem?

MR. HATCHER: No, they made some question. The enemy can always make some great to do about the state losing all of that money, road money or something of that sort, but I don't think it made any great impression on the public. Because when he was cleared, the impeachment was lifted I think the guys that tried to impeach him suffered more than those that supported him.

DR. CRAWFORD: Why do you think they dropped the impeachment proceedings?

MR. HATCHER: They didn't have the votes. They didn't prove anything. I'll tell you one instance that happened which was never public or anything. I told it a few times and I don't suppose it's any great secret about it, but they started investigating what they thought was a shakedown of cement companies in Chattanooga. They gave so many thousand dollars to Horton's campaign. This Chattanooga lawyer who was helping prosecute him got all of this information and had it all set up for a big hearing to expose it. And Colonel Lea and Charlie McAde and the bunch and all of Horton's people were operating out of a private club on Sixth Avenue.

DR. CRAWFORD: In Chattanooga?





MR. HATCHER: No, here.

DR. CRAWFORD: In Nashville.

MR. HATCHER: I can't think of the name of the club, but it was a big one, a three story, stone converted mansion that stayed there for many years next door to the Hermitage. They called me up there about 2:00 o'clock in the morning and Colonel Lea said, "Are they going to bring on this testimony in the morning about Chattanooga cement companies?" And I said, "Yes sir, we've already discussed that earlier in the day". He said, "You get up there early in the morning before the hearing and call Pete Haynes and Scott Fitzhugh off to one side and tell them that we know that they are going to put on this evidence about this Chattanooga cement company donating to the campaign fund and obviously they won't develop where that money went to. They just developed that it went into the Horton campaign fund, but say we'll develop where it went to". And we'll immediately run a big streamer in the paper that \$1,000 in cash went to Pete Haynes' campaign fund and \$1,000 cash went to Scott Fitzhugh and neither one of them had any opposition and let it rest at that. And I did, I called Pete and Scott off and told them. They said, "My God, we'll have to look into this." So they called the meeting of the committee and they stayed in session three hours.

DR. CRAWFORD: This was the committee that was preparing to impeach?

MR. HATCHER: The Impeachment Committee. They stayed in session three hours and came out and the lawyer from Chattanooga, whose name I can't call, was the maddest guy you ever saw in your life. They called some nondescript witness that had nothing to say. They have never mentioned campaign funds from the cement companies as yet.



So nothing happened and then the commotion got so bad, the talk so wide they were just trying Horton so Crump could put Scott Fitzhugh in as governor.

And Crump got to worrying about that and made Fitzhugh resign.

DR. CRAWFORD: Was Fitzhugh a speaker of the senate then?

MR. HATCHER: Yeah. Made him resign as speaker of the senate.

DR. CRAWFORD: Now he was from Memphis.

MR. HATCHER: Yeah. And would have become governor if they had impeached Horton. So he supposedly held over Scott Fitzhugh with it he had accepted a campaign contribution in Memphis for something. It appeared on the face crooked as hell, but Scott claimed that it was all straight and aboveboard, but there wasn't anything for him to do but to get out if he was going to stay in Memphis.

DR. CRAWFORD: Did that ever get out in the papers about the contribution to Scott Fitzhugh.

MR. HATCHER: No. There was some hinting of the pressure brought on Scott but nobody could ever know exactly what it was.

MRS. HATCHER: Tell him who they dictated their impeachment bill to.

MR. HATCHER: [Mrs. Joe Hatcher, who was a secretary.] To her. Because John Brown for instance

who was one of the, the rough neck of the Memphis delegation, wouldn't you say?

MRS. HATCHER: I would say.

DR. CRAWFORD: John Brown was?

MRS. HATCHER: He always got me nominated to work in the senate.

DR. CRAWFORD: So you worked in the senate then, Mrs. Hatcher?

MRS. HATCHER: Nine sessions, including the special session.



MR. HATCHER: But John did all of his strictly private dictating to her because he said that he knew that it would never get any further.

MRS. HATCHER: Did you know that they called me to the headquarters, Crump's headquarters, in the Hermitage Hotel and dictated. I stayed nearly all night long. They sent a cab out to get me. And different ones would come in and they would say, "Gosh, do they know who they are dictating to".

DR. CRAWFORD: They did, didn't they?

MRS. HATCHER: They did.

DR. CRAWFORD: Well they knew who they could trust also, didn't they?

MRS. HATCHER: They said that.

MR. HATCHER: Frank Rice said, "Damn it, we knew who we were calling, now you just get out of here and we'll do this!" Gerber was raising hell. Gerber wasn't in charge then. He was just an underling.

MRS. HATCHER: He walked through there and he was the one that smacked his hands and said, "Dear God", but I got it translated and transcribed before daylight.

MR. HATCHER: Who was the Attorney General down there? I've forgotten now.

DR. CRAWFORD: But Frank Rice was running things then?

MR. HATCHER: Yeah.

MRS. HATCHER: He was really running things.

MR. HATCHER: John Brown was a card. Incidentally, John broke up Watkins Overton's first marriage.



Watkins went home unexpectedly one day and John was there.

DR. CRAWFORD: I had heard something about that.

MR. HATCHER: And they retired John Brown for one session and sent him back and retired Watkins Overton.

DR. CRAWFORD: Was John Brown a lawyer?

MR. HATCHER: I think he was but he was County Court Clerk or something, a county official. They had a voting machine up there on exhibit in the lobby before they voted them in a voting machine. And John was back in the back, had the back open, looking in the back. Somebody said, "John, what the hell are you doing back there? This is where you vote". He said, "I know this is the place you control the damn thing and here is the side we are interested in here in Memphis because we don't care, we know what it will show out there". I mean, he was that frank. He was open and aboveboard. He wasn't interested in what the front of the voting machine looked like. He wanted to know how to run it in the back.

DR. CRAWFORD: Did John Brown ever get very high in the Crump Machine?

MR. HATCHER: He was pretty darn high.

MRS. HATCHER: He was a "hatchet man".

MR. HATCHER: He was a hatchet man and county office holder and pretty potent factor. I don't know how wide John's influence was, but he was pretty powerful as a legislator, both in the House and Senate. Except the one term he retired after the Watkins Overton deal. They just set Watkins aside and he stayed set aside, I think largely.

DR. CRAWFORD: Yes, he had trouble with Mr. Crump. He was off and on. Sometimes they would get along, sometimes they would have a falling out. Sometimes they would make up again. And then





there would be a falling out again.

DR. CRAWFORD: How did other members of the General Assembly feel about the Shelby County delegation?

MR. HATCHER: They were always friendly because the Shelby delegation always had their closets full of liquor.

DR. CRAWFORD: The Shelby County delegation?

MR. HATCHER: Yeah. They treated all of them royally. They were very popular most of the time.

DR. CRAWFORD: Well, were they respected though or did people sort of look down on them for being told what to do by Mr. Crump?

MR. HATCHER: They didn't necessarily play along with them. They did when McAlister was in office and Cooper.

I'd say a majority of the times they were friendly with the Shelby delegation. They had a friend in the governor's office most of the time, you see.

DR. CRAWFORD: Well, Mr. Crump did have influence in many smaller counties around.

MR. HATCHER: Well he had some machines that was just as loyal to him--Sheriff Biggs.

DR. CRAWFORD: What was his county?

MR. HATCHER: Don't tell me, I've drawn a blank on it. It's the corner county in Tennessee down near South Carolina and Georgia--Pope County.

DR. CRAWFORD: Pope County. Did Mr. Crump have alliances with some of the east Tennessee Republican bosses too?

MR. HATCHER: Yeah. He had an understanding. They would lay



off of him and he'd lay off of them.

DR. CRAWFORD: Was Carroll Reece one of the people who worked with him?

MR. HATCHER: They didn't deliver many votes for him but they didn't oppose him having a machine. Now Thad Cox in Johnson City was an ally of Crump's and Cox was also a law partner of the Taylor's, who were Democrats but usually divided up. The law firm would divide up and play all the sides.

DR. CRAWFORD: Well some of the successful law firms have done that you know.

MR. HATCHER: And some of them were Republicans. Bill Miller was a member of the firm and he became a federal judge. He was a Republican.

DR. CRAWFORD: What did they get out of this alliance if they never delivered many votes for Mr. Crump?

MR. HATCHER: Well, nothing except not interfering with Reece's appointment of postmasters and rural mail carriers and everything. And McKellar give him a few appointments and they would give McKellar a few Republican appointments. So they could work it on a pretty high level without--just a friendly alliance--without too much trading and bickering.

DR. CRAWFORD: I had understood that Mr. Crump did have alliances with some of the Republican leaders in East Tennessee and some of the Democratic smaller county leaders in other parts of the state.

MR. HATCHER: Yeah, he had some very strong ones. Now I think Thad Cox in Johnson City was closer to McKellar



than he was to Crump organization. But he was friendly with Crump through McKellar.

DR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Crump and Mr. McKellar usually got along at least on the surface, didn't they?

MR. HATCHER: They did until the last when Crump--well, I think eventually Crump hated McKellar but it never came to the surface. McKellar hated Crump when he went to Congress, and Crump was the boss. And Crump never got over it. He called him privately I've heard. He'd call him various kinds of a son-of-a-bitch and so on and stiff--backed and big-headed and so forth but never broke with him. But in the final analysis he knew he couldn't win and tried to keep him from running the last time.

DR. CRAWFORD: But he was defeated by Albert Gore. Of course Mr. McKellar was much older by then.

MR. HATCHER: Oh, he was in his dotage.

DR. CRAWFORD: Do you think that the relationship between the two of them involved Mr. Crump needing McKellar more at the beginning and McKellar needing Crump more later?

MR. HATCHER: Yeah. I think that McKellar might have been more powerful than Crump at the early stages. Although he didn't run a machine of that kind. The patronage of his job was big enough that that's all he had and he cared for.

DR. CRAWFORD: All Mr. McKellar did?

MR. HATCHER: Yeah.

DR. CRAWFORD: I would guess that by about 1940, give or take a little, that Mr. Crump was clearly stronger than Mr. McKellar.

MR. HATCHER: Well, in 1936 when Crump supported Browning









McKellar broke with them.

DR. CRAWFORD: Who did he support?

MR. HATCHER: He supported, he would have to support Guinn, wouldn't he? If that was who was running, but anyhow Crump bragged on the three votes against Browning in McKellar's box: McKellar, his brother, and his brother's wife.

DR. CRAWFORD: That was not very much.

MR. HATCHER: So that was more or less rubbing it in on the old man. Or maybe it was the senate race.

McKellar supported Stewart.

DR. CRAWFORD: From Middle Tennessee, Cookeville.

MR. HATCHER: That was in '48 though, wasn't it.

DR. CRAWFORD: I believe so.

MR. HATCHER: Yeah that was in '48. He supported Stewart and Crump supported John Mitchell. And Browning won, you see. I mean Kefauver won the senate race. I don't suppose McKellar took any part in the governor's race that year.

DR. CRAWFORD: Why do you suppose Mr. Crump supported Mr. Mitchell?

MR. HATCHER: He had gotten mad at Stewart.

DR. CRAWFORD: Do you know why he did?

MR. HATCHER: No, Stewart was a weakling as far as doing anything. He was lazy as hell, I think, and did whatever

McKellar wanted and didn't pay much attention to Mr. Crump and probably Mr. Crump had asked for some things that Stewart hadn't done. Nobody knows why in the hell they shifted off and picked up John Mitchell whom Crump had never met and never had known and never did know I don't think.



DR. CRAWFORD: Well Mr. Crump certainly didn't have any good reason to like Estes Kefauver.

MR. HATCHER: No.

DR. CRAWFORD: Do you know if Kefauver had tried to get Crump support in '48?

MR. HATCHER: I wouldn't think so. No, he had made the coalition with Browning early and was to run against the Crump machine. He thought he would run against Stewart all the way, and he did because Mitchell wasn't a factor.

DR. CRAWFORD: Uh huh, even with Mr. Crump's support. How were relations between Mr. Crump and Gordon Browning in the '48 election. I've never really understood that?

MR. HATCHER: Crump was strictly for McCord. He had supported McCord through two races.

DR. CRAWFORD: Did he give McCord much help really in that campaign?

MR. HATCHER: Not too much I don't think. Browning and Kefauver ran well in Memphis.







THIS IS THE ORAL HISTORY RESEARCH OFFICE OF MEMPHIS STATE UNIVERSITY. THIS PROJECT IS "AN ORAL HISTORY OF TENNESSEE POLITICS". THE PLACE IS NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE. THE DATE IS OCTOBER 1, 1978, AND THE INTERVIEW IS WITH MR. AND MRS. JOE HATCHER. THE INTERVIEW IS BY DR. CHARLES W. CRAWFORD, DIRECTOR OF THE MEMPHIS STATE UNIVERSITY ORAL HISTORY RESEARCH OFFICE AND IS TRANSCRIBED BY MS. CAROL LANEY. (INTERVIEW #2)

MR. HATCHER: The 1930 election was when Crump supported Horton on the Election Commission. I was right about that. Two thousand and something to twenty-seven thousand. Fifty-something to sixty-something thousand votes in Memphis came later.

DR. CRAWFORD: Do you think Mr. Crump was surprised by the results in '48 when Gordon Browning and Estes Kefauver won?

MR. HATCHER: I think so because that broke his machine and it was the end.

DR. CRAWFORD: Why do you think the machine had declined in power then?

MR. HATCHER: Well, the machine just wears out after so long a time, a political machine does, I think. People get tired of it. And Crump shifted from Stewart to Mitchell, an unknown. And Tom Stewart was never very popular, so his candidates were weak. If he had gone out with Tom Stewart he might have beaten Kefauver.





Might have, I say, there was some doubt.

DR. CRAWFORD:           Rather than dividing the support between Stewart and Mitchell?

MR. HATCHER:           Yeah. Kefauver got 171,000, Tom Stewart 129,000 and John Mitchell 96,000.

DR. CRAWFORD:           Well together . . .

MR. HATCHER:           They got more than Kefauver, you see.

DR. CRAWFORD:           Uh huh. Mr. Crump might have made a mistake in supporting Mitchell here.

MR. HATCHER:           Yeah. He was Gerber's pick.

DR. CRAWFORD:           Mitchell was?

MR. HATCHER:           Yeah. Browning won clearly. He won 240,000 to 183,000.

DR. CRAWFORD:           For Jim McCord.

MR. HATCHER:           Yeah.

DR. CRAWFORD:           What kind of governor had McCord been?

MR. HATCHER:           McCord was very pleasant fellow but that was mostly his personality.

DR. CRAWFORD:           Did he never build a political organization very effectively?

MR. HATCHER:           No. He wasn't particularly Crump's first choice for governor probably but he announced for governor after one term in Congress and Tennessee endorsed him—thought he was all right—and then Crump came along and endorsed him and took him over.

DR. CRAWFORD:           Evidently he had valued Crump's support.

MR. HATCHER:           Yeah, he went along with Crump all the way.



DR. CRAWFORD: Do you think he exerted any independence at all?

MR. HATCHER: Very little.

DR. CRAWFORD: Do you know of any occasion where he ever broke with Crump or challenged him?

MR. HATCHER: No, I don't know of any.

DR. CRAWFORD: What about the sales tax, do you know how Jim McCord got that passed?

MR. HATCHER: No, he got it passed for the schools, for the purpose of the schools, I think.

DR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Crump had opposed the sales tax before, you know.

MR. HATCHER: I don't remember whether I was covering legislature then or not, probably not very closely. I was still on the Capital but mostly just writing the column and either the city editor or managing editor didn't get up there much.

DR. CRAWFORD: McCord had been a newspaperman, hadn't he, in Lewisburg?

MR. HATCHER: He had a newspaper, yeah.

DR. CRAWFORD: To go back before McCord, what had been Prentice Cooper's relationship with Mr. Crump from '38 to '44?

MR. HATCHER: None that I know of. Cooper announced for governor. He walked into the Tennessean late one afternoon, called me and gave me an announcement for governor and turned and started to leave. I jumped up and grabbed him and carried him in to meet Mr.



Evans. He chatted with Mr. Evans a while and the Tennessean endorsed him. Crump had called Walter Chandler home from Washington and Congress and announced him for governor. In a few days, I think it was, Chandler withdrew and Crump announced for Cooper.

Cooper had promised us to support repeal of the poll tax and advocated it. Mr. Crump said it was all right, he would back it too, but he didn't. The delegation did everything in the world to fight it. This history I've got here of Mr. Evans shows, and the letters we got from Crump, they fought the hell out of it. Crump controlled three members of the Supreme Court and got a favorable ruling from the courts on it. But Cooper and Crump got along pretty well the entire three terms. Crump wasn't demanding too much in those days, I think, just to get along and still be the big shot.

DR. CRAWFORD: To not be bothered in Shelby County.

MR. HATCHER: Yeah. To see that he kept all the reins and controls that he wanted.

DR. CRAWFORD: What about Mr. Crump's relationship with the judiciary?  
He was able to get a favorable decision about the poll tax, I know, from the Tennessee Supreme Court. How much influence did he have over the state court system?

MR. HATCHER: No great amount except in the Supreme Court, I wouldn't think, and maybe the West Tennessee Appeals Court. In the Court of Appeals I think he probably would have had control. But he had three out of five in the Supreme Court.

DR. CRAWFORD: You mean he had helped get them in office.



MR. HATCHER: Yeah. One of them was from Shelby, Hoyt Gaylor.

DR. CRAWFORD: I understood that Mr. Crump had influence in the selection of some of the judges.

MR. HATCHER: I can't remember all of the judges. There was one of them from Bolivar which was certainly a Crump man. Three of them had been appointed by Crump governors or organization men anyhow. Chief Justice Green and Judge Neil were both Nashville or Middle Tennessee. They were anti-Crump. And they had dissented on that opinion.

DR. CRAWFORD: Why did people around here have any doubt about Mr. Crump? What were their main objections to him and his machine?

MR. HATCHER: Well, against any dictatorship I would think. They didn't like to have their ballots vetoed or erased except by legal voting. Elections were cleaner generally.

DR. CRAWFORD: Do you know how the Crump organization was able to get such majorities as they did in Shelby County?

MR. HATCHER: By complete control of the election machinery.

DR. CRAWFORD: How did that help them?

MR. HATCHER: Well, they discouraged masses from voting and people just didn't pay their poll tax. The blacks and machine people--each ward heeler would get just the people he could control--get them registered and their poll tax paid and be available to vote. Poll tax was a great way to control any ballot box. If people have to pay a tax to vote they are not going to vote in any great strength.





DR. CRAWFORD: Where was the greatest opposition to the poll tax in Tennessee?

MR. HATCHER: Middle Tennessee in particular, and it became general all over the state. We always claim the Tennesseans' leadership brought it about. But eventually the Tennessee Press Association, the League of Women Voters--practically all organizations that had anything to do with politics, were for the abolition of the poll tax--and organizations for abolishing the poll tax. Practically every newspaper in the state took up the fight.

DR. CRAWFORD: Was there an organization here in Nashville devoted to getting the sales tax repealed?

MR. HATCHER: I don't know of any specific organization other than the League of Women Voters. I'm sure there was a general organization but nothing very active.

DR. CRAWFORD: I've talked to Jennings Perry here in Nashville. I believe he was involved in something about the program.

MR. HATCHER: Yeah, he wrote a lot of editorials on the subject.

DR. CRAWFORD: I'd like to ask some questions, Mr. Hatcher, and if I may I'll let Mrs. Hatcher add a few things to it.

I wonder if we could get some more information about how the Crump organization functioned in the Legislature. And I wonder particularly about how it was able to bring pressure on other people in the General Assembly to get them to go along with the issues of the Crump organization. Would you like to comment on that--or shall I ask Mrs. Hatcher?

MR. HATCHER: Well, on the surface it was the Crump organization's



treatment of other members of the Legislature that they wanted under their influence. They kept a very good stock of good whiskey and they passed it out liberally. They operated a big headquarters in the Hermitage Hotel and other members were always welcome. They would hand out a few pints and so forth and they entertained lavishly at night clubs in Printer's Alley. And when it come down to real pressure, Mrs. Hatcher can tell you their system of working inside the Legislature itself.

DR. CRAWFORD: That is the people who would not go along for the free liquor.

MR. HATCHER: Yeah. You tell him on that.

DR. CRAWFORD: What happened in that case, Mrs. Hatcher?

MRS. HATCHER: It was easily done. You had friends in the office who handled the bills. The bills were introduced in the Senate. They came over to be captioned in the Senate clerk's office. And after they had been captioned, if this man had been holding out on a vote that was of vital interest to the Crump interest, the bill was quietly lifted from the desk where the captions were being made and the bills were being readied to be entered in the index and the journals. And the bill was held, or it could go to a committee someday it never got reported out. It just stayed and stayed and they were going to get to it any minute and he [sponsor] would go and ask about it and they would earnestly tell him that they were sorry that they hadn't gotten to that bill yet. This happens in Washington, you know too. And that bill would be held until this reluctant man had agreed, and then miraculously the



bill surfaced. The bill was reported out of the committee with the recommendation of the committee if there had been the satisfactory adjustment of the folks. And he could go back home and hold his head up. But if he didn't that bill didn't surface or it didn't get out of the committee or the engrossing clerk in some way had lost it or it just. . .

MR. HATCHER: And it doesn't always take a majority. The big fight in the United States Senate today is that a minority is manipulating and holding up so much legislation that the big cry is to break the hold of the minority group with the powerful influence in the United States Senate. The same thing applied that a minority, the Shelby delegation. If it had the right men in the clerk's office or in various posts in the organization they could put that bill in their pocket and hold it. Nobody could ever do anything about it.

DR. CRAWFORD: So the parliamentary machinery was manipulated. But do you mean bills were actually just stolen or carried away?

MR. HATCHER: Just carried away, they weren't lost—they could be restored at any time—put in a pigeon hole somewhere and locked up in a safe.

DR. CRAWFORD: They were not stolen, they were just hidden?

MR. HATCHER: Yeah. They were just taken out of the due process.

MRS. HATCHER: I can name bills and I can name people. I wouldn't. And incidentally, if the bills were of the greatest interest to the Crump machine—invariably the chief clerk or a bill clerk or an index clerk, I'm thinking of three who were very friendly with the



Crump administration-would come over and say, "Now, Dorothy, this bill, we're only going to use, this is an amendment to the act of such and such a date and so and so". And it was such a technical little caption that when you read it, it had no interest to you whatsoever. And the object of captions is to capsulize the contents so that when that roster shows in the newspapers the average person can see that today we're going to do. The Senate is acting on a bill to reduce the tax on oleomargarine or something like that. But if you start amending the acts of 1914 or the acts of such and such a date it's so dull that no one ever notices it. So all of the bills that were urgent to the Crump Administration always were amendments and they were never captioned.

MR. HATCHER:                There was a Crump man in the clerk's office in the House for years and years that took care of all of those things.

DR. CRAWFORD:             Did people know about it?

MR. HATCHER:               They knew he was Crump's right hand. And he has in recent years become head of the Memphis Bar Association. I can't come up with his name.

MRS. HATCHER:             No, but when I read his name I had a rigor thinking of him.

MR. HATCHER:               Most friendly.

MRS. HATCHER:             I can't think of his name either.

MR. HATCHER:               A congenial guy.

MRS. HATCHER:             Oh, they were most congenial.

DR. CRAWFORD:             They were selected for that.





MRS. HATCHER: Anybody who came from Memphis to have a transcript of a bill made never dreamed of paying for it. They were \$7.50 apiece. Everybody else but the Crump machine. I don't know how many transcripts I have done in my day and not a one of them ever paid.

DR. CRAWFORD: The other legislators paid though?

MRS. HATCHER: Oh yes. Charlie Brown, who always called me Mrs. Dog, he would say, "Mrs. Dog, I want four transcripts today."

DR. CRAWFORD: Why did he call you Mrs. Dog?

MRS. HATCHER: Because I was the wife of Joe Hatcher and he was dog.

MR. HATCHER: Charlie broke with Crump on a very peculiar situation. At Crump's annual party out at the country club there.

DR. CRAWFORD: In Memphis?

MR. HATCHER: In Memphis. Charlie was playing pinochle or something.

MRS. HATCHER: Gin rummy.

MR. HATCHER: Gin rummy with Mrs. John Shea, I think it was, and Crump decided they'd pitch horseshoes or whatever it was and he told them all to come out and start pitching horseshoes. And somebody told Charlie, "Mr. Crump's starting a horseshoe game down there he wants you." And Charlie said, "I'm too busy, I've got a beautiful woman here and I'm going to play gin rummy". And he did and they told



Mr. Crump about it and Charlie moved to Nashville the next week.

DR. CRAWFORD: Left Memphis.

MR. HATCHER: Left Memphis. There wasn't any future for him to practice law there. He had a trucking firm that he was an attorney for and so he moved to Nashville.

MRS. HATCHER: He was for the truckers association. Every bill which tried to limit the truck weight laws, why Charlie was always the boy who fought it because the truckers were increasing the weight all the time. He represented the association.

MR. HATCHER: I think after Mr. Crump died he moved back to Memphis because he disappeared from the Nashville scene.

DR. CRAWFORD: But he had to leave Memphis.

MR. HATCHER: Just like Gerald Stratton.

MRS. HATCHER: Did you tell him about Gerald?

MR. HATCHER: He's interviewed Gerald. They kept Gerald awake all hours of the night just constant with telephone calls after they made him resign from the office-or he resigned. Until he left there he couldn't get any sleep, any rest or anything else. The telephone constantly rang all night long.

DR. CRAWFORD: And Charlie Brown had been a member of the Crump organization.

MR. HATCHER: Yeah, he was in the Senate I guess at that time, or the House at least.

DR. CRAWFORD: Well did other people in the General Assembly know what they were doing with these bills?



MR. HATCHER: No, they had no idea. They just couldn't find them.

DR. CRAWFORD: Did they suspect that Mr. Crump had a man in the clerk's office?

MR. HATCHER: They knew. A lot of them knew that they were being had but they didn't know how. They didn't know how to combat it.

DR. CRAWFORD: Were they not able to get rid of these people in the clerk's office?

MR. HATCHER: No. They'd been elected by the Legislature or appointed by the Speaker I imagine.

DR. CRAWFORD: Now about this caption business, I can see how that would prevent opposition. For most people would not know what the bill was about.

MRS. HATCHER: Well it would take an hour to go in the state library to find the Act of 1914 and finding the one volume that had this bill in it. And it was a technical job that I had to learn to do, to write captions, because you got 24 pages and you're going to have one line that says what this bill is about. The dullness of the everlasting amending the Acts of 1914, chapter 42 and then getting down to the particular item and put all of that in one line. It's so deadly dull that nobody is ever going to bother.

DR. CRAWFORD: Were most bills listed that way or just the ones the Crump people introduced?

MRS. HATCHER: Well, quite a few were. If they were unimportant



bills--the simplicity of it--maybe it only dealt with some minor problem in some one county, and getting that had no universal interest at all. So it was simpler to just amend the acts. But when it came to a bill that affected a great many people or affected more important things, then it was important that you should have in the caption of the bill what it was really about.

DR. CRAWFORD: But misleading captioning helped them in a case like that, didn't it?

MRS. HATCHER: Definitely. And they always got the nicest people, who have always been very successful since then, to do things like putting the bills in their pockets and all. They are charming people.

DR. CRAWFORD: But they were doing exactly what the organization wanted done.

MRS. HATCHER: Surely.

DR. CRAWFORD: Well how did other members react when their bills were taken away. Can you tell of any cases?

MRS. HATCHER: No, they would never come to a secretary. I was appointed many times to be a secretary to senators.

And I worked for anybody who wanted me or I was secretary to the Chief Clerk of the Senate or I was secretary to the Speaker. I was secretary once in special sessions to Pete Haynes.

DR. CRAWFORD: You were special secretary to Pete Haynes once.

MRS. HATCHER: I was secretary also to Bill Moss, who was judge





in Madison County in Jackson, Tennessee. But they'd never have any occasion to talk to me about the problem of their bill not being reported out of a committee. They just couldn't locate it you know. You could just go to person after person, trying to find it. It was always in transit. It was being engrossed or it was being enrolled or it was in a special committee and it hadn't been reported out in the committee and the bills clerk hadn't received it yet and it hadn't come back to the senate office. It was just always enroute.

DR. CRAWFORD: Well, do you remember an occasion of any senator speaking about what happened to his bill in the Senate. Do you remember the case of the senator from whatever counties it was in east Tennessee? I'd like to get that story.

MRS. HATCHER: I haven't the details clearly enough in my mind. I didn't know anything about him until that night.

DR. CRAWFORD: But what happened that night?

MRS. HATCHER: That night was the most amusing thing of course. Amusing--a tragedy to him. It wasn't amusing in any way except the fact that he had not grasped the fact that it was over and his bill had never made it. All the time he thought it was in the mill and it was probably being signed by the governor and he just found out that night that it had never gotten out of the committee even.

DR. CRAWFORD: What happened? He called on the speaker? Can you tell us?

MRS. HATCHER: In some way, it's hard to figure where it was that



he found out but he did find out that it wasn't down in the governor's office. And it had never been passed. It had never passed on third reading.

DR. CRAWFORD: What did he do then?

MRS. HATCHER: He cried.

DR. CRAWFORD: He was a member of the senate?

MRS. HATCHER: Yes, he was the gentleman from Knox, Loudon, Monroe and Polk. I don't know how I can remember it so well but he had said it so many times.

DR. CRAWFORD: And he called on the speaker.

MRS. HATCHER: And he kept saying-he'd get as far as "My bill hasn't made it" and then he would start crying.

MR. HATCHER: I started to bring him a copy of that. That's a fascinating thing. [Mr. Hatcher has just brought something in the room for Dr. Crawford to look at]. I found a bunch of copies you might find something interesting in.

DR. CRAWFORD: Yes sir, this is the Rodgers-Caldwell story by George Barker of the Nashville Tennessean.

MR. HATCHER: You can take that along with you, I've got several.

DR. CRAWFORD: Thank you sir, that's a real addition for I have never heard of this one. Someone wrote a book, Mr. McFerrin I believe on the Caldwell business enterprises but I had never heard of this.

MR. HATCHER: There's a world of false information there I understand, too.



DR. CRAWFORD: In the book?

MR. HATCHER: Yeah. I haven't read it.

MRS. HATCHER: It was a surprising thing to me. Joe was a regular at Mr. Rodgers' Saturday luncheons which had 12 to 14 guests every Saturday regularly and he had a standing invitation. He went every Saturday for how many years before the old gentlemen died. Just the most interesting people you ever saw came from everywhere.

DR. CRAWFORD: Here is a picture of a collection of people sitting with Mr. Caldwell before lunch.

MRS. HATCHER: Well that's just a part of whoever was invited because he had large groups and the discussions were fascinating. I never went but Joe would tell me about what was interesting.

DR. CRAWFORD: What about Mr. Crump's communication with you, Mr. Hatcher? He had a habit I know of sending telegrams and letters. What did you receive from him?

MR. HATCHER: Probably more telegrams than letters. I don't know. I would say fifty letters from him, all of them very much the tone of the one that I showed you.

DR. CRAWFORD: I would like to read that or make a copy of it if I might.

MRS. HATCHER: I saved that one. That's one that didn't get into the bonfire that night.

MR. HATCHER: When I go to the office I can make a xerox and send



it to you.

DR. CRAWFORD: I would appreciate that sir.

MR. HATCHER: If there are any letters in there that you want?  
I could xerox them for you.

DR. CRAWFORD: All right. This is the letter we're talking about  
he wrote to you then-about '35 or so. But he sent  
many others and you burned a number of them when you moved into the  
house, didn't you?

MRS. HATCHER: Pounds and pounds of telegrams.

DR. CRAWFORD: Pounds of telegrams?

MRS. HATCHER: Yes sir.

DR. CRAWFORD: What were they like?

MR. HATCHER: This one from . . .

DR. CRAWFORD: Yes sir, this one is from Mr. Crump to you dated . . .

MRS. HATCHER: Do you like the signature? The modesty of it.

DR. CRAWFORD: Did he sign all of them this way or was he a little  
angry here?

MRS. HATCHER: He was always angry.

MR. HATCHER: I think he signed everything that way.

DR. CRAWFORD: Well, it's a distinctive signature.

MRS. HATCHER: Yes it is.

DR. CRAWFORD: I've never seen another like it. This was dated  
September 20, 1935. "Luke Lea taught you how to  
write filthy lying articles and you are still at it".





MRS. HATCHER: His ancestry was figured prominently in many telegrams which Mr. Crump would think of in the evening and evidently dictate to Western Union over the telephone. He could do 200 words on Joe's ancestry anytime. Some article he had written just sparked off these.

DR. CRAWFORD: And he would get a long telegram after an article occasionally.

MRS. HATCHER: Quite often.

MR. HATCHER: That was before Mr. Evans started a big fight on him you see. That was during receivership.

MRS. HATCHER: We moved here in '38 and that's when we burned the big box.

DR. CRAWFORD: Burned the box of telegrams from Mr. Crump that you had received. All of them uncomplimentary?

MR. HATCHER: All of them.

MRS. HATCHER: My dear Mr. Crawford, uncomplimentary! He never paused. He used words that aren't . . .

MR. HATCHER: I don't remember any McKellar letters that came about anything. He never said anything. All of his letters were friendly.

DR. CRAWFORD: But Mr. Crump's letters were not friendly?

MR. HATCHER: Never a friendly word.

DR. CRAWFORD: And you heard a great deal about your ancestry in these letters?



MRS. HATCHER:           How his mother barked. When we find his copy of  
                          Time which I saved, I am a regular reader of Time,  
I'll have him xerox that and send it to you because I think you would enjoy  
it. It's a picture of Mr. Crump.

MR. HATCHER:           And Wanderoo, I think it's Wanderoo, is a monkey  
                          with a big, white, shaggy mask on his head. It  
looked very much like Mr. Crump. We ran it as a picture by Mr. Crump  
and the jackass but I forgot what it was, Wahoo or something. I don't  
know where Crump got these names.

MRS. HATCHER:           Both of them though came out of his interview with  
                          Time.

MR. HATCHER:           And we ran the jackass head along with Gerber's  
                          picture. They looked like Crump and Gerber. And  
I think that made him so mad he couldn't see.

DR. CRAWFORD:           Did you get a telegram after that?

MR. HATCHER:           No, I don't remember.

MRS. HATCHER:           I doubt if they would have taken that telegram.  
                          There is a limit.

DR. CRAWFORD:           Well they took some pretty insulting telegrams,  
                          didn't they from Mr. Crump to Mr. Hatcher?

MRS. HATCHER:           Uh huh. Guy Drake told me, "We don't accept them  
                          except . . . "and then he laughed and I knew what  
he meant and we said, "Yes, Mr. Crump . . ."

MR. HATCHER:           Well, there was not what you would call filth in



them, just insulting and speaking about your ancestors, monkeys or jackasses or. . .

MRS. HATCHER: Canine.

MR. HATCHER: Canines and so forth.

MRS. HATCHER: But they were stirring days.

DR. CRAWFORD: I can understand there was a great deal of emotional involvement in things then.

MRS. HATCHER: The impeachment trial--it's the only time I've ever been close to an impeachment. I had traveled on the campaign trips with Joe at the invitation of Mrs. Horton and you'll be amused by this. One day Mrs. Horton said, "We're going to a very large town in Tennessee which consists of one small store and it had a gas tank out front and this will be one place that we go that nobody knows Joe Hatcher". And he said, "Maybe the number 1 license plate on the car will clue them in as to who we are. But we're going to stop that." This town was made famous later, one store by Robert Service in "The Cremation of Dan McGee" in which he said, after he was cremated, he said, "Since I left Plum Tree in Tennessee this is the first time I've been warm. This is Plum Tree, Tennessee".

And it was Plum Tree due to the fact that the post office with a little letter box was the only thing that gave any claim to fame and that was the whole post office system in that one little box. And we drove up and the car was as long as this house and had the number 1 license plate. And the driver got out and Governor Horton got out and and there were two gentlemen sitting on the porch whittling on a piece



of cedar. Each of them had a piece of cedar just whittling away, chatting and they looked up and saw the license plate. We were headed toward them, neither one of them moved so Joe waited a few minutes and he stepped out and all of a sudden both of these dreamy guys came to life and jumped down the steps and said, "Hi Joe! What do you think the Saint Louis Cardinals are going to do this season?" And Governor Horton said, "I'll give you the five dollars." Plum Tree was the smallest town we had been in two weeks and he said, "And they know Joe Hatcher but they don't give a toot about number 1 license plates".

DR. CRAWFORD: Had they seen your picture when you were doing sports writing?

MR. HATCHER: Well, they had probably been around the legislature.

MRS. HATCHER: I would have sworn they had never left Plum Tree with one look at them, but they said, "Hi Joe".

He was sports editor when we married and took up a life of crime with politics afterwards.

DR. CRAWFORD: Well, only reporting on crimes.

MRS. HATCHER: One day I walked in with letters to be signed (And I'm leaving after this) and a senator had arisen to a point of personal privilege in which you can say anything under the sky and sun you want to and no action can be taken against you for it. And this man was calling Joe everything almost that Mr. Crump had.

DR. CRAWFORD: Was he a member of the Shelby County delegation?





MRS. HATCHER:           No, he was the senator. And I stood in the back  
                          transfixed. Joe was sitting at his typewriter with  
his cigarette in his mouth and smoke curling up and listening to him  
with just the greatest interest. And he had the microphone and he  
was right up there and every little bit he was pointing his finger.  
He said, "This right here is the hand of that black so and so that's  
driving this ship of state straight to hell. That young man right there".  
Well, he just went on and on and his point of personal privilege around  
the legislature passed the lunch hour and finally when he got through  
he had said everything he could think of to say and he sat down and  
immediately the speaker adjourned for lunch. And I walked out of the  
door in a tremble.







THIS IS THE ORAL HISTORY RESEARCH OFFICE OF MEMPHIS STATE UNIVERSITY. THE PROJECT IS "THE HISTORY OF TENNESSEE POLITICS". THE DATE IS DECEMBER 1, 1978. THE INTERVIEW IS WITH MR. JOE HATCHER AND MRS. HATCHER IN NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE. THE INTERVIEW IS BY DR. CHARLES W. CRAWFORD, DIRECTOR OF THE MEMPHIS STATE UNIVERSITY ORAL HISTORY RESEARCH OFFICE. TRANSCRIBED BY BETTY WILLIAMS. INTERVIEW II.

DR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Hatcher, in the election of 1948, there was, of course, a gubernatorial election involving Browning and also the senatorial election involving Estes Kefauver. Did the candidates work together with any of them allied or were the two campaigns separate?

MR. HATCHER: They didn't campaign together. As I remember maybe on occasion together, but they weren't joint campaigns. But they were certainly closely allied and it was the ticket. Kefauver and Browning were running as a combination.

DR. CRAWFORD: What did they have in common in that election?

MR. HATCHER: Anti-Crump. I think [that was] the main thing they had in common.

DR. CRAWFORD: Did they express it openly or just understood?

MR. HATCHER: It was quite openly, and peculiarly it became more open on Kefauver's side because of Crump's crack about Kefauver being a "pet coon"--Silliman Evan's pet coon! Kefauver adopted the coonskin cap and the National Enquirer's big play of that. Browning had no such



gimmick, but he had broken with Crump in a very bitter fight with Crump in the ten years before that. So he was fighting the Crump machine which was supporting McCord.

DR. CRAWFORD: Why do you think Mr. Crump disliked Estes Kefauver?

MR. HATCHER: I don't know--not personally. I don't know any reasons for personal dislike other than Estes supposedly got in the race of Mr. Evans and Browning and the combination was all anti-Crump. And he wouldn't half support him. Kefauver had served as a cabinet member under Cooper and run for Congress and then had pretty much been his own man in Congress. Whether he did anything in Congress that might have antagonized Crump, I really don't know.

DR. CRAWFORD: I don't remember any. What cabinet position did he hold under Prentice Cooper?

MR. HATCHER: Finance and Taxation.

DR. CRAWFORD: You had an opportunity to cover his activities for quite a number of years. What did you think of Estes Kefauver's training and ability?

MR. HATCHER: He was a master politician. He was not such a brilliant mental giant although his dogged determination was something [that] conceivably--law enforcement--let's say, on the crime commission study and stuff of that sort sky-rocketed him into national prominence. And he waded into anything--mafia, crime syndicates, and anywhere they were in defiance, that's where Kefauver went. And he was set on the presidency.





DR. CRAWFORD: Do you think he had that in mind when he first became a senator?

MR. HATCHER: No, I don't think he did. I think he got the idea after he won the house seat and saw an opportunity to run for the Senate and then in the Senate was off to a big start with the Crime Commission and so forth. It developed into an opening that went right on to the Presidency. And he almost made it. As far as a popular figure I don't think there was any question that he was far more popular with the people than Stevenson was.

DR. CRAWFORD: Why do you think he was so popular with the people?

MR. HATCHER: Just because he loved people I reckon. His way and his simplicity, and his down to earth--he was a big, gawky, country boy--hand-shaking. He couldn't make a speech worth a darn. For instance, in Salinas, I guess it was California, he made a speech about it being--I don't know what it was. I reckon it was the celery capital of the world--it wasn't. It was the biggest lettuce capital of the world--Salinas. He always said something funny that people could get a laugh out of at any rate.

DR. CRAWFORD: He was not a particularly good orator then, in your opinion?

MR. HATCHER: No.

DR. CRAWFORD: You've heard him make a number of speeches, haven't you?

MR. HATCHER: Yeah, well, he could hold his own. I was with



him in San Francisco and he challenged Governor Brown (California's Governor) to a debate. Brown was certainly nobody's back seat orator. He had, I think, been attorney General like his son--a great speech maker. I was looking at the audience--a big gymnasium or auditorium, enormous big building or warehouse kind of affair where they had the debate, and he ate Brown up. He kept hearing these gangsters that ruled San Francisco, he kept listening and said, "I thought I saw so and so coming in." He kept putting on and the audience was yelling and going crazy over everything he said. Brown rode back to town with him, said he wanted to ride with Kefauver and tell him he really was giving him a lickin'.

DR. CRAWFORD: Have you heard Kefauver campaign in a small town? Or small places?

MR. HATCHER: Yeah.

DR. CRAWFORD: How did he do there?

MR. HATCHER: Yeah, he would just walk through some towns and shake hands with everybody. He'd ask anybody with him to give him their first name just before he to them so he could greet 'em by their first name and shake hands with 'em. Mr. Evans told him he needed to shake so many thousand hands before the election. He did it to the extent of multiplied thousands of handshakes. He was the forerunner of the, I think, of Alexander's walk from one border of East Tennessee to the Mississippi River. Kefauver didn't do his walk, but he did most of his campaigning in



small town and walking in the town shaking hands not in big speeches and mass meeting.

DR. CRAWFORD: What was his relationship with Silliman Evans?

MR. HATCHER: Well, Evans was originally responsible--originally approached him to make the race.

Browning was to make it, Browning was set to make it. I had made a trip to Germany to get to Browning in '46 to get him to run. The only thing I could do was persuade him to let us keep him on the ticket and run in absentia. And he had made a very good showing against McCord--stayed in Germany--Governor of Bavaria. But then he got out of the army and came back ready to run for Governor. So he needed a running mate and he wanted Kefauver. I thought Kefauver would be his man. I heard something about Kefauver going to Germany to see him (Browning) and saw him in Washington on the way back too. Somewhere--Harrenton Bay--Kefauver saw him and agreed to run with him (Browning). And Kefauver had been approached by Evans to make the race. And he was ambitious and wanted to make it. Whether he came to Mr. Evans or Mr. Evans came to him I don't know, but . . .

DR. CRAWFORD: Tell me about your trip to Germany in 1946, Mr. Hatcher. How did that come about?

MR. HATCHER: The Tennessean had broken with Mr. McCord. We had originally supported McCord--supported McCord--he thought he was independent of Crump but shortly after--I think that was the year, I'm not sure, the year that Crump announced Walter Chandler as his candidate. And McCord



announced--we announced support of McCord and then Crump withdrew Chandler and picked up McCord.

DR. CRAWFORD: Why do you think he picked up McCord?

MR. HATCHER: Because McCord had a better chance and a much better base, and Crump didn't think he could lick a Memphis man.

DR. CRAWFORD: He already had Memphis support, he needed support from outside.

MR. HATCHER: I'm not sure that was the year or whether Cooper picked Chandler, but anyhow McCord announced without Crump's okay on it. Without Crump's support and Crump was supposedly going to support someone else, but he didn't. He supported McCord and McCord became a full-fledged Crump supporter. And so we particularly broke with him over his lack of enthusiasm for repealing the poll tax.

DR. CRAWFORD: About how long had he been in office before the Tennessean broke with Jim McCord?

MR. HATCHER: Well, I guess it was sometime during his first term. Because we opposed him the second time with Browning in absentia. Browning came back and ran against him and served a third term. In the meantime McCord had sealed his own fate by passing another cent on the sales tax in the second term. It didn't create any strong support.

DR. CRAWFORD: Now how about your trip to Germany?

Did Mr. Evans ask you to go to talk with Gordon Browning over there?

MR. HATCHER: Yes, we thought we could persuade him to come





home and make the race. It had plenty of angles to it. When on one of my neighbors, during the war we still had to have party lines on the phone and one of my neighbors was always listening in. [They] listened in on conversations, tipped the Banner off and they knew why I went to Germany and had the story before I got there. The lead in the Banner was, "Browning Wouldn't Return", so I changed mine into a story[that read] "Browning Runs in Absentia." He agreed to do that, but not to come back because his job was not finished there--he didn't feel like quitting in the middle of it. And he had been appointed Governor to Bavaria and so he went ahead and ran and left his name on the ballot.

DR. CRAWFORD: Did you and Mr. Evans hope when you went over there that you could persuade him to run?

MR. HATCHER: Persuade him to come back and run and run an active race. But failing in that, he let us use his name.

DR. CRAWFORD: The war had just barely gotten over at that time. How did you go to Germany? Did you follow it?

MR. HATCHER: Yes, it was--commercial flights had been restored. I flew American Airlines into Germany. I'm not sure how I got into Berlin. I some way escaped their security and they didn't know where I was. The army didn't for awhile, and I was in Berlin before they located me and then I got headed for Frankfurt when I got a



flight. I landed on the American Airlines in Frankfort. Browning was located in Frankfort but he had gone out on some kind of mission. [They] reported [him] in Berlin so I went on up to Berlin and caught him there.

DR. CRAWFORD: Did you find him receptive to the idea?

MR. HATCHER: Very much interested in it, yes. And he thought deeply about making the race and coming home to make the race, but he thought better not to.

DR. CRAWFORD: Did he give you an answer before you returned that he would not come back to run?

MR. HATCHER: Yes. In fact, he had told the Associated Press and some of them before I got to talk to him that he wouldn't come back. But he didn't tell them he wouldn't run in absentia now.

MRS. HATCHER: Are we talking about Cap?

MR. HATCHER: Yes.

DR. CRAWFORD: Did you call Governor Browning, "Cap"?

MRS. HATCHER: He's my "Cap".

MR. HATCHER: They nicknamed him that in the first World War. People close to him always called him "Cap".

DR. CRAWFORD: I had the pleasure of serving with him on the Tennessee Historical Commission for the few years before he died.

MRS. HATCHER: He brought this back in his hot little hand all the way back from France to me and I won't let myself finish drinking it because I'm so touched that he



brought it.

DR. CRAWFORD: He brought a special bottle of Cognac.

MRS. HATCHER: Cognac. I had a thing about cognac at that time and he wagged this thing back himself and dragged this to lunch and gave it to me.

DR. CRAWFORD: And he brought the bottle back to you?

MR. HATCHER: He never took a drink in his life.

MRS. HATCHER: No, he was a teetotaler.

DR. CRAWFORD: Governor Browning did not. He brought the bottle of cognac back to you. Well, it's a treasure worth keeping.

MRS. HATCHER: I loved it.

DR. CRAWFORD: Well, what did he do in the election of '48? or '46 actually? Generally, how well did he do running in absentia?

MR. HATCHER: Let me look at the book.

DR. CRAWFORD: Is that Joe Carr's book?

MR. HATCHER: I think Joe puts this out.

DR. CRAWFORD: Is that Forty Years of Tennessee Elections?

MR. HATCHER: Yes.

MRS. HATCHER: Joe and I used to stuff mail bags together in 1920.

MR. HATCHER: I sent Joe a clipping the other day and it had a picture of himself as a page in the Senate, in the days of short knickerbockers and long socks. And Joe is the funniest looking clown, and he called me and said, "Where in the h--- did you find that?"



DR. CRAWFORD: What sort of campaign did he run in absentia?

MR. HATCHER: Well, I got elections and I want primaries.

MRS. HATCHER: Well, you can give him something while you are looking up the things, I betcha.

MR. HATCHER: Browning got 120,535---McCord, 187,119.

DR. CRAWFORD: That was not bad for not being in the state during the election.

MR. HATCHER: Then in '48 he beat McCord-240,000 to 183,000.

DR. CRAWFORD: He was back in the state then.

MR. HATCHER: Yes, so he beat him practically 60,000.

DR. CRAWFORD: What part did Silliman Evans play in the campaign of '46 with Gordon Browning in Europe?

MR. HATCHER: Well nothing except the paper went all out.

MRS. HATCHER: Well, they sent you!

MR. HATCHER: And supported him, and campaigned for Browning just like he was here.

DR. CRAWFORD: He was prepared to come back if he had been elected?

MR. HATCHER: Yes, he could get out anytime. The war was over and no question he could get out first if he had been elected.

DR. CRAWFORD: Had the sales tax made Jim McCord unpopular by that time?

MR. HATCHER: We used it a great extent in the campaign against him. Not in that election, but the '48 election.





DR. CRAWFORD: Do you know any details about how he got Mr. Crump to approve a sales tax?

MR. HATCHER: No, I don't.

DR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Crump had always opposed the sales tax.

MR. HATCHER: Yes, but Crump was opposed to a lot of things, I would think, not vigorously.

He supported the repeal of the poll tax once some place, but he didn't really mean it, because when it came to a showdown he fought h--- out of it--repeal.

MRS. HATCHER: It was lip service strictly.

MR. HATCHER: He had rather have sales tax than property tax.

DR. CRAWFORD: Which person had rather have . . .

MR. HATCHER: Mr. Crump had I'm sure. The whole sales tax idea was more or less born under the Crump administration. For he might have opposed it?

MRS. HATCHER: It was token opposition, though wasn't it?

MR. HATCHER: I don't know you can't say whether it was token.

DR. CRAWFORD: But he changed. Do you know anything about the arrangement they made--the Shelby County delegation made with the rural block to get the sales tax through.? Do you know if they made any deal like with Mr. [Pete] Haynes, and Mr. [Jim] Cummings?

MR. HATCHER: They were working pretty close together, Haynes was. Haynes broke with them to be the speaker, but that was earlier. Haynes broke with them in



Governor McAlister days.

DR. CRAWFORD: But they managed to cooperate on sales tax.

MR. HATCHER: I don't know. I don't remember how Haynes stood on the sales tax, but I'm sure he was for it part of the time and against it part of the time and you never could put your finger on Haynes.

MRS. HATCHER: You could, but your finger had to keep moving.  
(Laughter) You could always put your finger on Pete, but you had. . . .

DR. CRAWFORD: Was he a strong leader in the rural interests?

MR. HATCHER: Yes, Cummings was always their acknowledged rural leader. Haynes was more a state figure than he was local legislation. Haynes was running one house or another.

DR. CRAWFORD: What role was I.D. Beaseley playing that time?

MRS. HATCHER: Sleeping in both of their pockets.

MR. HATCHER: Drinking up all the excess liquor.

MRS. HATCHER: I.D. and Pete and Jim were in each other's pockets all day and all night. Where you found one; you found the other two.

DR. CRAWFORD: Well, where you found Pete Haynes and I.D. Beaseley and who else?

MRS. HATCHER: Jim Cummings.

DR. CRAWFORD: What did the paper call them?

MRS. HATCHER: "The unholy three." (Laughter)

DR. CRAWFORD: The unholy three!

MR. HATCHER: "The unholy trio."

DR. CRAWFORD: That goes down with The Immortal Thirteen.



MR. HATCHER: Haynes was speaker of one house or the other.

And the speaker can darn well control, particularly when he's got somebody to help him. I.D. was always the champion of any rural cause.

DR. CRAWFORD: I. D. Beaseley?

MR. HATCHER: Yeah, he didn't sponsor any great legislation or pass any great legislation.

DR. CRAWFORD: He was from Carthage. Was he the famous mimic?

MR. HATCHER: Yeah, he was the entertainer of the Legislature.

MRS. HATCHER: He could call up--he could sit in our office in the Senate Office and call up some poor old lady who represented Spenser's Foundation Garments down in the old Hitchcock Building and have her so shook up. His voice was so meltingly sweet that she would give in and come up there. This poor old Jerk would never know what hit him when this lady showed up.

MR. HATCHER: He would call up the Shelby delegation and tell half of them to vote one way on a bill and the other half to vote the other way. Frank Rice told him they were going to kill him if he didn't quit it.  
(Laughter)

DR. CRAWFORD: Would he call up and pretend to be Frank Rice?

MRS. HATCHER: He would pretend to be anybody and be it.

DR. CRAWFORD: And they would believe it.

MR. HATCHER: Yeah, you'd believe him in a hurry.



MRS. HATCHER: He or Jim would come to town. I know the room they'd always take in the Andrew Jackson. A display room for a garment company is what they'd give them. They'd always call me to come over and take some dictation and it was so out in space and I couldn't bear to put it down on paper--they always had a typewriter and paper and everything ready. They could get away with anything and they were so damn funny with it, you would do it, (laughter)weren't they? Now Pete could get --he went along with them on most things.

MR. HATCHER: I had a good time with them.

DR. CRAWFORD: They added a little humor to the Legislature, didn't they?

MR. HATCHER: A lot of it--I've had a lot of escapades with them. We stole a hundred and something pints of whisky one night.

MRS. HATCHER: Joe Hatcher! I'm going to call the sheriff!

DR. CRAWFORD: Wait till we hear the story. It might not be that bad. How did it happen, Mr. Hatcher?

MRS. HATCHER: He didn't drink it, I can tell you.

MR. HATCHER: Most of it was from the Shelby delegation. There was always liquor around, but we had three girls with us and three of us and the six of us that made these parties in the winter time. We had on heavy coats and we just picked up the extra bottles of liquor laying around and put them in our pockets and we'd leave and carry them down the hall and put them out and then go back to





another party and load up. We had enough liquor to supply all of our needs for ages.

DR. CRAWFORD: All a hundred and twenty bottles. (Laughter)  
Who was supplying all this liquor to the General Assembly now?

MRS. HATCHER: Every liquor dealer in the state of Tennessee!  
Plus everybody that wanted anything gave whisky endlessly to them.

MR. HATCHER: The Shelby delegation always had a big closet full. These rural boys went by and picked them up a case when they wanted it. Lynchburg. . .

MRS. HATCHER: Lynchburg, Tennessee furnished them a mite.

DR. CRAWFORD: I would guess it would. Did Jack Daniels discover it?

MRS. HATCHER: I would guess that it did. But I think everybody just chipped in together one time and gave Pete a new Chevrolet up in the Legislature. Poor boy, he needed something to show he had struggled so hard for all the interests of the State. I don't know whether they gave one to I.D. and Jim or not, but Pete got one, didn't he?

MR. HATCHER: Yeah, as speaker.

MRS. HATCHER: As speaker he got one, but they got commensurate little gimmicks that they could get by with.

DR. CRAWFORD: Was this the liquor dealers that made this generous gift?

MRS. HATCHER: The liquor dealers and anybody that wanted



legislation passed all got together.

MR. HATCHER: Liquor dealers were probably the biggest contributors. Tennessee manufacturers, they were always big contributors.

MRS. HATCHER: Tennessee Manufacturers Association was a generous group, believe me.

MR. HATCHER: Yeah.

DR. CRAWFORD: It sounds like a happy place for almost everyone, except the public perhaps. Was the Shelby delegation always well supplied with money and entertainment facilities?

MR. HATCHER: Yes, always!

MRS. HATCHER: And do you know that there were more beautiful girls appointed as engrossing clerks and all kinds of clerks but mostly engrossing clerks. Because you didn't have to type if you could read, you could be an engrossing clerk. And you can't imagine!

Charlie Brown told me from--I'm thinking of John Brown from Memphis told me one thing one time. He said, "Look girl, there's never been a time that you haven't had an appointment up here when we are having the legislature. We gotta have somebody who'll come up here early in the morning and start typing. And what in the H---, has anybody ever taken you to lunch yet?"

I said, "Not yet."

He said, "Well, they are not going to. You're supposed to be typing, kid. That's how come Shelby appoints you. We



don't ask anybody else to appoint you. You don't have to ask for any appointments, you have got one. But these pretty girls that come up here that are engrossing clerks they're to go out to lunch with and to go out to have cocktails with. Don't you get yourself mixed up with them kid, 'cause you are supposed to be typing and don't forget it." (Laughter).

I knew I was supposed to type and that was that. I typed one time forty-eight hours straight on the Smokey Mt. National Park thing.

DR. CRAWFORD: That would have been under Hill McAlister?

MRS. HATCHER: Dave Chapman was the author of the bill. I don't know, it was after Austin Peay.

MR. HATCHER: No, it was Austin Peay.

MRS. HATCHER: He was dead.

MR. HATCHER: He started it.

MRS. HATCHER: Yes, and then it got passed, but I typed every boundary, stone, rock and dead tree in the Smokey Mt. National Park. But as John Brown pointed out, "You don't think we've got you up here for your looks, do you girl? Act like Joe Hatcher's wife, you just type like h--." (Laughter)

DR. CRAWFORD: But they did have plenty of employees there for their looks?

MRS. HATCHER: And they were cute as pie. They were just darling girls. They were cute as could be when they went out to dinner and very day to lunch. And they couldn't read a bill, because they couldn't read a semi-colon



or a coma or a colon. They couldn't tell the difference.

DR. CRAWFORD: However, Tennessee might have had the best looking group of employees in the country at the time.

MRS. HATCHER: I bet they did. Because I was friends with all those girls. They were real nice. They would come in and say, "Gee Dottie, it's a shame. Could I bring you something to eat?" (Laughter).

DR. CRAWFORD: Well, were they generally from Nashville or from out of the state?

MRS. HATCHER: They were from all over the state. They ate lunch with some mighty boring old gents so I think they earned whatever they got.

DR. CRAWFORD: Well, someone's written account was that many of the legislators had girls that they kept in Nashville during legislative sessions and then would go back away home when it was out of session and then come back again. I don't remember whose account that was.

MR. HATCHER: The guys from small towns couldn't get by with it for long.

MRS. HATCHER: No way, no way.

MR. HATCHER: If he didn't get her a job in the Legislature, [they couldn't leave their hometown.]

MRS. HATCHER: Particularly if her father and mother insisted that she stay at the YWCA. But you have no idea how flexible the hours of entering and leaving the YWCA





became during the legislative sessions. But they finally worked out that it was simpler. Did you know The Hermitage was always the headquarters for the Crump organization? There was an annex to The Hermitage--an older part and it was finally discovered that it was far simpler to arrange for these charming young ladies to stay there closer to the capital without having to walk up an extra block in the rain and the snow and sleet and bad weather.

DR. CRAWFORD: That was very considerate.

MRS. HATCHER: It was, and so they largely stayed after that--as many as it could be arranged for--stayed in the annex of The Hermitage. And they were more available it is true--to the capital I mean--to the typewriters.

DR. CRAWFORD: Course, not all of them could type.

MRS. HATCHER: None of them could type! None of them could type! (Laughter).

DR. CRAWFORD: Tennessee has always had an interesting government.

MRS. HATCHER: I don't think you could restrict it actually to Tennessee.

DR. CRAWFORD: I wonder about other states but I really only know ours.

MRS. HATCHER: I think you could say this is a pattern that has been universal. That men will be men and girls will be girls and always the twain shall meet--some way! (Laughter). Won't they?

DR. CRAWFORD: I suspect that is likely. I don't know about



other states, but I have suspected that other states have been pretty much like Tennessee.

MR. HATCHER: I don't know who, but there's been a lot of stuff written on legislatures and that and their practices. But I don't know.

MRS. HATCHER: Well, it worked out for one old filly who liked to type and who was fairly accurate. There was a guy that Senator McKellar got appointed as the Federal Judge to Middle Tennessee had occasion (he'd been in the legislature). And he'd had occasion to have bill after bill he'd introduced typed by her. He'd offered her when he became federal judge the job as his secretary. So it paid off! Of course, Mr. McKellar wouldn't let her be [his secretary].

DR. CRAWFORD: Someone always spoils the fun.

MRS. HATCHER: Yes, but it was a never-failing source of satisfaction that he asked and that he made a special trip to Washington and said Senator McKellar, "Please!" That was always a satisfaction. Yeah.

DR. CRAWFORD: I didn't realize that the Senator had that much authority over federal judges' employees.

MRS. HATCHER: He appointed it, did he not?

MR. HATCHER: He okayed them. He didn't appoint them.

MRS. HATCHER: Well, he got the appointment made. He got the President to make the appointment, did he not?

MR. HATCHER: Yes, but he could certainly veto it.



DR. CRAWFORD: Senator McKellar was very influential by the end of his term in office.

MRS. HATCHER: Yes, and early in his career he was extremely fond of Joe Hatcher. He would even arrange transportation. He would even arrange for him to have a room at the hotel.

MR. HATCHER: It wasn't fondness for me.

MRS. HATCHER: It was the coverage you were giving him.

MR. HATCHER: I was giving him h---, but it was his political courtesy, let's say, and his political practice.

DR. CRAWFORD: Why do you think he changed, Mr. Hatcher?

MR. HATCHER: He got old and cranky.

MRS. HATCHER: Could I give you a piece of advice?

DR. CRAWFORD: Yes.

MRS. HATCHER: Avoid senility.

DR. CRAWFORD: If I can think of a way to do it. (Laughter)

MR. HATCHER: He tried his best to keep Mr. Evans from buying the Tennessean. And conducted a complete investigation in the Senate. He finally gave it up and just dropped it all of a sudden and nothing was ever heard about it any further when he saw he wasn't getting anywhere. And I think the senators even refused to go any further with it because they saw they were being used. He met Mr. Evans in the lobby of the hotel and started beating him over the head with his walking stick.

MRS. HATCHER: Avoid senility.



DR. CRAWFORD: And senators with walking sticks.

MR. HATCHER: And some of the other senators and friends pulled him off and he got to the point later on that he didn't know who Alben Barkley was and Barkley couldn't get the floor for two days to pass some very important administration bill. Finally they figured out some way to call McKellar back to his room in the hotel and get him out of the chair so he could get someone to recognize Alben Barkley.

DR. CRAWFORD: And Al Barkley was Vice-President then.

MRS. HATCHER: That's right.

MR. HATCHER: Yes. No, he was still in the Senate.

DR. CRAWFORD: That was before.

MR. HATCHER: Yeah. McKellar's famous speech about "What in the h--- were they naming Barkley Lake? What the h--- did Barkley have to do with it? on a lake on the Tennessee River?"

DR. CRAWFORD: Did they put that one in the Congressional Record?

MRS. HATCHER: No sir, I bet you.

MR. HATCHER: I bet you they did. I bet you it's in there.

MRS. HATCHER: I bet you that it is lost.

MR. HATCHER: It may be, but it happens to be in the State of Kentucky and the river runs through the State of Kentucky. It just happens that a lot of the water is backed up in Tennessee, but McKellar raised h--- because they were going to name it Barkley Dam. But the point I was





making that I've got a letter and Mr. Evans had letters later after all that in which he is very friendly. He became very friendly.

DR. CRAWFORD: About when was that he beat Mr. Evans with his walking stick?

MR. HATCHER: I don't know.

DR. CRAWFORD: But he was friendly afterwards?

MR. HATCHER: Oh yeah, after he was beaten. After '48, some time. That was before '48 you see. But after '48 he became friendly after he was beaten. Albert (Gore) beat him in '52 I guess.

DR. CRAWFORD: Yes.

MR. HATCHER: And in '56 I imagine he was commending the Tennessean and Mr. Evans was supporting the Democrats and we were all Democrats together and how great it was and all that kind of stuff. He wrote several letters. I've got a file of some of them now.

MRS. HATCHER: You've got some of them now, haven't you?

MR. HATCHER: I've got one of them.

DR. CRAWFORD: Did Senator McKellar occasionally write to you after you had written something?

MR. HATCHER: No, he rarely ever wrote, or complained or any thing. Crump always did.

MRS. HATCHER: He either wrote a letter or he sent a night letter or he sent a day letter or he sent a one hundred and fifty-word straight telegram. But he communicated--Mr. Crump did.



DR. CRAWFORD: You always knew what Mr. Crump thought then about what was written?

MR. HATCHER: Yes.

DR. CRAWFORD: Your articles were generally critical, weren't they?

MR. HATCHER: Always critical.

MRS. HATCHER: He was consistent!

DR. CRAWFORD: You had a file of letters--but they were destroyed weren't they--from Mr. Crump?

MR. HATCHER: Yeah, when we moved I accumulated such a file that I didn't want to keep them. I just have one or two left. Somehow they escaped. Generally, I may have a few others scattered around, but my files are in such a shape I'd never find them.

DR. CRAWFORD: If you ever retire you can get your files in order then, Mr. Hatcher.

MR. HATCHER: I've started to try, but I'm still not much. .

DR. CRAWFORD: You're still writing though.

MR. HATCHER: Yeah. Still accumulating a lot of stuff. Getting some of it filed and some of it not filed.

DR. CRAWFORD: Do you think that the election of 1948 was much of a blow to Mr. Crump?

MR. HATCHER: It must have been. They got terribly mixed up and confused. And evidently shook them up.

He broke with Tom Stewart, and got Gerber to get him another candidate. And they got John Mitchell, the Judge who was a



complete flop. They might have beaten Kefauver if they stuck with Stewart. I doubt it because [he] hadn't done a thing. He just wrote it like McKellar wanted him to and did nothing on his own.

DR. CRAWFORD: What did he get for following McKellar's lead?

MR. HATCHER: I think Stewart was plain too lazy to do anything. Having his son and daughter on the payroll and so forth and taking it easy. I don't know that he was a heavy drinker, but he certainly enjoyed it easy in life--do nothing.

DR. CRAWFORD: Do you think that was why Mr. Crump broke with him?

MR. HATCHER: No, it was something--some item Crump wanted done that he didn't do it--I'm sure. Because McKellar stayed with him and supported him. Crump broke with McKellar on it and McKellar, his brother, and his brother's wife were the three votes that Stewart got in McKellar's home box in Memphis. He was trying to humiliate McKellar.

DR. CRAWFORD: Crump was?

MR. HATCHER: Yeah.

DR. CRAWFORD: It seems that he did it, doesn't it?

MR. HATCHER: And then he left his victor there afterwards. He didn't support him in '52. He didn't oppose him; he didn't support Gore, but he wasn't assured of McKellar and he [McKellar] obviously didn't know what he was doing and he wasn't capable of serving any longer.

DR. CRAWFORD: Do you find it surprising that someone else



had not noticed that and entered the race also against McKellar?

MR. HATCHER: No, McKellar didn't come home anymore. The public didn't know the situation he was in and the Senate pretty well takes care of its own and wasn't spreading it.

DR. CRAWFORD: Yes, that's true the Senate sometimes has been very protective, at least with senior members.

MR. HATCHER: If we could just get him out of the chair. We can let him survive. They needed to do business because he didn't know them and didn't know who they were or what they were trying to do or anything. He kept them confused and they would get him out. A telephone call or anything took him out of the chair.

DR. CRAWFORD: Was he able to campaign against Albert Gore in '52?

MR. HATCHER: Very little. He tried to make one speech. I don't think he finished it. He soon gave up active campaigning altogether.

DR. CRAWFORD: Of course that was fortunate for Albert Gore.

MRS. HATCHER: Well, Albert had a smart wife who understood this state from one end to the other, who could organize, who could write a speech that Albert could make without reading it over. Cause I knew her before she married him when she was going to night law school and waiting in the coffee shop at the Andrew Jackson and just working like a dog and she could write a political speech





that was so darn good Albert didn't even have to read it before he had to make it. And she had this state down right county by county, locality by locality, and she understood it. And she was one more asset and don't you think she wasn't.

DR. CRAWFORD: I believe she was all through his career.

MRS. HATCHER: Always.

DR. CRAWFORD: And they seem to have given Al Gore Jr. a good start.

MRS. HATCHER: They certainly did. He graduated summa cum laude at Harvard. So they had to give some kind of a background to get that.

MR. HATCHER: He's kind of a leader in the House on several committees.

DR. CRAWFORD: He seemed to have a good start.

MR. HATCHER: HE got on the ball and running with it.

DR. CRAWFORD: And that's unusual at such an early age, isn't it?

MR. HATCHER: Yes.

MRS. HATCHER: Well, look I'm going to shut up in a minute, but I knew Albert when he was superintendent of the schools. What's the county that Carthage is in?

DR. CRAWFORD: Is that Smith County?

MRS. HATCHER: He was Superintendent of the schools. I remember he was a school teacher and in Smith County. Then I remember when he got to be Superintendent of the schools. Then I knew him when he got to when Browning



appointed him Commissioner of Labor and he was one more darn good Commissioner of Labor cause I've been secretary for the Commissioner of Labor and I know who can work and who knows what he is doing and one who doesn't know his so and so from his so and so. And Albert did. And he managed that department and enlarged it and took on all of those new workman's compensation and all the different things that were added to it and Albert was able. But he also had one more able helpmate. And Pauline was just as smart as Albert and between them they were just as smart as they could be. Because I have known them all those years.

DR. CRAWFORD: I make no reference to present company or lack of it, Mrs. Hatcher, but sometimes in Tennessee the women have been smarter than the men. I can think of a number of cases.

MRS. HATCHER: In Tennessee?

MR. HATCHER: Pauline is a big-time lobbyist. I don't know who for. Since Albert got beat, she has been a big-time Washington lobbyist. Course he is making more money than he has ever made in his life.

DR. CRAWFORD: He is chairman of the board or at least an officer for Island Coal Company.

MRS. HATCHER: We went up there one time when they had just bought the farm and had a shack on it and Pauline cooked the meal with wilted lettuce and some hog jowl and some turnip greens and something else and made it taste as good as anything you could get at the Hyatt Regency. I'm



telling you like it was. And she waited on tables at that time up at the Andrew Jackson Coffee Shop to work her way through law school at night at the Andrew Jackson Business College. And she was learning not only every thing about law but she was learning. .(Tapes runs out)

















